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Kentucky School for the Deaf celebrates a rich history

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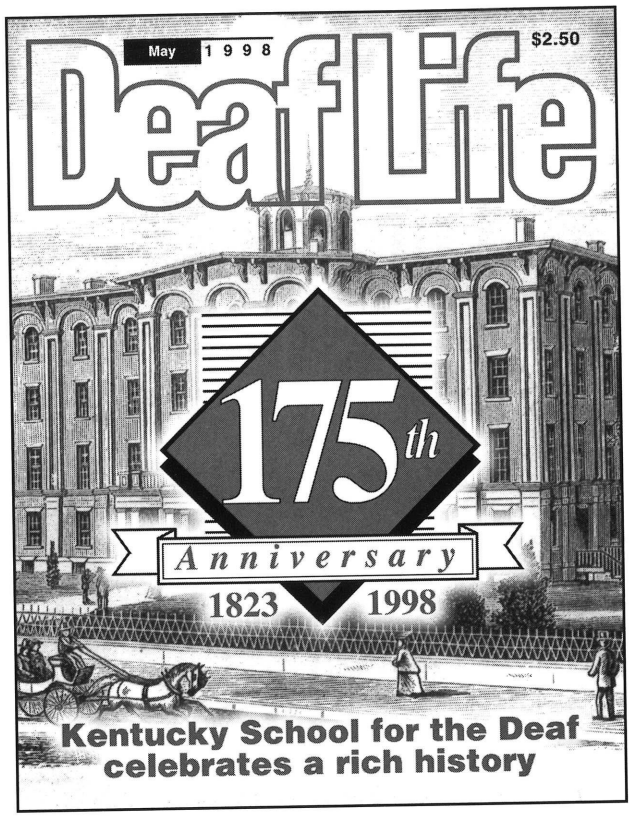

COVER

DESIGN BY MATTHEW S. MOORE
PHOTO COURTESY OF BUMMY BURSTEIN

ON APRIL 10, 1823, THE KENTUCKY SCHOOL for the Deaf opened its doors in a rented inn on Main Street in the small town of Danville, with three students, and no trained teacher to receive them. Still, it was a start. It was motivated by the love and concern of a father for his deaf daughter. He wanted her and the other deaf children of the state to have an education. KSD was the fourth school for the deaf in the U.S. and the first one west of the Alleghenies. It was also the first to be state-supported. It remained open during the Civil War, survived the Depression and oralism, adapted to integration, and is thriving.

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Publisher's Note

The Kentucky School for the Deaf is celebrating its 175th anniversary. And what a rich history it is!

It's ironic, though, that while KSD is celebrating another landmark anniversary in high style, the Nebraska School for the Deaf is closing down. There are some advocates who still have hope that the school can be saved. But the Nebraska legislature seems to have already pulled the plug on it. NSD marked its 128th anniversary this year, by the way, but considers this its final Spring term. The community is not done fighting.

This issue includes a photo-essay of Gallaudet University's DPN 10 celebration. We will, from time to time, feature other updates and essays related to DPN 10. It's good to have something to celebrate, even if some of the things happening in the things happening in the community *are* bad news.

In late February, we launched a new Website, www.deafchat.com. It's been growing nicely. We've seen the remarkable ability of the Internet to encircle the continents. Almost immediately, we began getting visitors from Japan, Canada, England, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, and Finland. The volume of traffic has been increasing, with more and more "new faces" logging in every day, which makes for more fun and livelier discussions during more times. There are regional and special-focus rooms, and special programs, such as the one for parents of deaf children on Wednesday evenings. All readers are welcome to stop by and join in. Young people are welcome, too.

Matthew S. Moore

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A FEW MORE WORDS

EDUCATION: THE REAL GREEN CARD

■ Ralph (Rafael) Sedano, who teaches at Santa Fe Community College, and is himself a Deaf Mexican-American, has visited Mexico, talked with Deaf Mexican leaders and "regular folks," and seen something of the dreadful conditions that provoked the illegal exodus of deaf Mexicans to the United States. What's the best solution? Not giving them visas, he argues, but giving them a decent education (which will lead to better jobs and social status), and encouraging leadership, so that Deaf Mexicans can empower other Deaf Mexicans . . . in their own country. 28

DeafView READERS' VIEWPOINT

WHAT EYEWITNESSES?

■ We asked our readers if the media (especially TV reportage) tends to have an anti-Deaf Culture bias. Of 323 respondents, 61% say yes, 8% no, and large proportion, 31%, aren't sure. Concerns shared by our readers include: projecting a negative image of deaf people on the news, misleading and incomplete health reportage on how cochlear implants "cure deafness," failure to interview deaf people on issues that concern us, and bypassing them when getting comments from eyewitnesses. And the continued use of the term "deaf-mute." And a bad attitude towards captioning. One respondent argues that all news reportage is inevitably biased. Another says, "How can they be biased when they don't write about us at all or hardly ever?" 30

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LETTERS

A Canadian horror story

Dear friends,

Hello. My name is Tammy Benson and I am desperately in need of your help.

I am the mother of a delightful 8-year-old boy who has a profound hearing loss. Here in Saskatchewan, the predominant ideology views sign language as a 'last resort' only to be introduced after a child has 'failed' orally. Allow me to describe the current situation:

- All children in Saskatchewan under the age of three who are diagnosed with a significant hearing loss *must* be referred to the Saskatchewan Preschool Auditory Rehabilitation Centre (SPARC) in Saskatoon.
- SPARC's philosophy is that of an oral/aural approach with emphasis on auditory/verbal therapy for all the children they provide service for.
- There are *no* sign-language programs available in this province for young deaf and hard-of-hearing children.
- Parents are discouraged from using sign language—we were told to "just wait and see what the hearing aids would do for him" when we asked where and how we could learn sign language.
- When it became apparent that the hearing aids were of no use for my son, the ONLY option—the ONLY program—presented to us was the cochlear-implant program. My son was then left without any direct service for eight months—until after he had the surgery.
- The ONLY preschool program for deaf and hard-of-hearing children is strictly oral/aural. Despite my best advocacy efforts, my request for an interpreter was denied. I was told that *"providing a visual language interpreter for your son would be contrary to the philosophy and objectives of the preschool program."* I am very fortunate that our separate (Catholic) school system has since responded to our son's educational needs, and has provided him with an ASL interpreter He is, however, the only deaf child attending this school.)
- Saskatchewan does not have a School for the Deaf.

You cannot imagine our horror when my husband and I realized that Saskatchewan is one of the few, perhaps the only, place in all of North America where the communication options available for young deaf children are limited to one. Outraged, we have been actively advocating for our son (and for substantive program changes) for several months, but no one is listening. On March 10, 1998, I made a public statement (the story was aired on the CBC news) to our Minister of Health. I told him that he had a moral, an ethical, and a legal responsibility to initiate immediate changes in the program options available to young deaf children and their families. He has agreed to "look into it" but needs documentation of sign-based programs that are available in other provinces. He also requested any other information that would substantiate my position.

Please understand, I am challenging a very powerful, firmly entrenched, 'oral/aural only' establishment. I need your help! Please send to the Minister of Health information, statements, or literature concerning any or all of the following:

1. Documentation of existing signing programs for young children.
2. Sign language as a viable alternative to cochlear implantation.
3. Sign language as a positive contribution to the child's overall communication strategies.
4. Parents must have choices available to them and deserve to have their choices respected and supported.

Please copy and pass this let-

LETTERS

ter along to colleagues, educators, professionals, and parents who may wish to help send a strong message to the Saskatchewan government that the programming currently available for profoundly deaf children in our province is both inappropriate and unacceptable. I also respectfully request a copy for myself so I can be aware of what the Minister has received on this issue. Please, for the sake of the children, take the time to respond. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tammy Benson
2209 Ewart Avenue
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Canada S7J 1Y1
❒(306) 242-2467 (FAX)
☎(306) 343-9611 (TTY/voice)

[Send to:]
The Honourable Clay Serby
Minister of Health—Sask.
Health Room 346
Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0B3
❒(306) 787-8677 (FAX)

Point of information

First, let me congratulate you for a very fine article on "Bummy" in the April issue. Did I do all that? Anyway, well said! Thank you.

I need to correct some misstatements concerning my part in the initiation of the California Relay Service (CRS).

Let me go back to 1979 when John Galvin was president of the California Association of the Deaf (CAD). A rider, much to our surprise, was added to the health legislation bill to authorize the distribution of loaned TTYs.

During my tenure as president of CAD in 1981-85, we had a surplus in the distribution of the TTY Fund in 1982. I appointed Bill White of Sacramento as Executive Director of the CAD Home Office and at the same time he chaired the California Relay Service committee. He worked very hard with the Legislature to draft a bill legislating the formation of a state-wide 24-hour, 7-day dual-party relay service. In 1982 Bill submitted the bill. In 1983, the bill was approved and in 1987 AT&T was selected by California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to serve as a single relay provider.

Major credit goes to Bill White for making CRS a reality.

My term as president of CAD expired in the summer of 1985.

In 1989, I was appointed by CPUC to serve on the Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program Administrative Committee (DDTPAC) of which I became the chair for 8 years immediately following its inception until my term expired in August of 1997. This committee oversees the annual budget of forty million dollars ($40,000,000). The two advisory committees—California Relay Service and Equipment Program—report to DDTPAC. The Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program played a very important part in providing services such as the relay system and equipment such as the TTY for the deaf, and specialized communication devices to meet the needs of other disabilities.

In 1990, we were not happy with the relay service. We met with the AT&T management from New Jersey twice to discuss 56 specs to improve the relay service. They did not accept our proposals. Right after that, we contacted the CPUC and got authorization to develop a request for proposals (RFP) to solicit competitive bids for the California Relay Service. I was the chair of the RFP committee to draft RFP. After reviewing the bids from the phone companies, we recommended to CPUC the selection of Sprint, which was approved. When the contract expired at the end of the 5th year, we had to develop [an] Invitation for Bid (IFB) to solicit bids from providers to offer the

LETTERS

California Relay Service a multiple-provider environment. I again was the chair of this IFB Committee. MCI was awarded the contract to be our provider. Three applicants met our specs. The one with the lowest bid became the primary provider. Unfortunately, the other two were unwilling to become secondary providers at that lower bid, and consequently backed out, leaving MCI as our sole provider.

The above is the general gist of the early days of distribution of TTYs and the implementation of the California Relay Service.

Last fall Sprint returned as a secondary CRS provider, which makes California the first and only state to have a competitive relay service with two providers.

The Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program has a complex history that could fill a book. Some of the inside information would be truly surprising to the readers of such a book. Only a very few of those who were directly involved with the process are aware of much that occurred. A book of this kind could provide valuable information in its overview of all that has taken place and the progress made over almost twenty years.

I [also] need to correct the statement I mentioned about the CPUC in [the] March issue, pages 22-23. It was the California Assembly Bill, AB 3152, approved by the Legislation, which authorized CPUC to establish a committee to begin implementing a telecommunications program to provide the placement of TTYs in existing buildings and public accommodations. This committee consists of five representatives of which I am one.

G. "Bummy" Burstein
Riverside, California

Keeping posted on the "many exciting happenings"

I enjoy reading **Deaf Life** every month. I look forward for each month's informative articles. There are many exciting happenings in the Deaf community, and your magazine strives to inform both the Deaf and hearing communities.

I began learning American Sign Language seven years ago; I find the language quite complex, yet fascinating. I was fortunate enough to have a Deaf instructor who gave his students a first-hand look at the Deaf community and its culture. Hearing individuals who are not familiar with the Deaf way of life, do not realize what a unique language and culture the Deaf have. I am thankful to the wonderful and giving Deaf people who have allowed me, as an outsider, to learn more about a culture and language so unlike my own.

Keep up the great work, and I will continue to look forward to each month's issue.

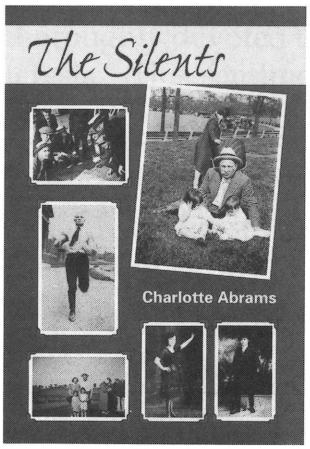
Catrina Campbell
(@yahoo.com)

OOPS!

In last month's "Letters to the Editor," an editorial footnote was misplaced. The note following Michael J. Ramsey's letter about improving captioning of televised football games (see page 6, top, righthand column) should have followed Steven R. Sandy's two letters about Monica Lewinsky's *paparazzi* and Karla Faye Tucker's signing (on pages 4 and 5). These two letters, as published in **DEAF LIFE**, were free adaptations of the original E-mails. Mr. Ramsey's letter was published essentially as we received it.

All letters must be signed and have a return address. No anonymous (unsigned) letters will be published, but we will withhold your name on request. Send letters to: **DEAF LIFE**, c/o MSM Productions, Box 23380, Rochester, NY 14692-3380. FAX: 716-442-6371. E-mail: deaflife@deaflife.com

Book Review



Ordinary people, extraordinary lives

The Silents. By Charlotte Abrams. Illus. Washington, D.C.: Gallaudet University Press, 1996. 270 pp. $24.95.

The last decade has brought a modest proliferation of memoirs by hearing children of deaf parents. These are valuable records of bygone worlds and the characters who inhabited them, and also moving nonfiction. As with Lou Ann Walker's **A Loss For Words**, Harvey L. Barash and Eva Barash Dicker's **Our Father Abe: The Story of a Deaf Shoe Repairman**, and—particularly—Ruth Sidransky's **In Silence: Growing Up Hearing in a Deaf World**, **The Silents** is about growing up in a Deaf family where signing was the "primary mode."

Charlotte Abrams' parents, Ruthie and Joe Herzberg, were Deaf; she and her younger sister Adelaide, hearing. Much like Mary and Ben Sidransky, Ruthie and Joe were from close-knit (but non-signing) Jewish families, and raised their own families in the inner cities during the Depression and World War II. Abrams wrote her book as a legacy to her own children and grandchildren:

> [W]hen my youngest son, Larry, and his wife made me a grandmother, I asked him how it had felt to have deaf grandparents. He had never wondered about it, he said. It was as natural to him as breathing. But, as he grew older, he realized that my growing up was different from his, and he had wondered about *that*.
>
> So I decided to write this book for him and the others who have wanted to know more about my growing up. But it is not my story—it is my parents' story, for they are the ones I would like you to know. They were ordinary people who lived extraordinary lives.

"The Silents" is a translation of the Yiddish "der Shtimmers"—what the neighbors called the Herzbergs—Ruthie, Joe, "Sha," and "Addle," as they passed by.

Their story, sometimes tragic, sometimes funny, is told in impressionistic snippets of memories, anecdotes, and conversations. Portraits of neighbors, relatives, friends, and Ruthie and Joe's deaf card-playing buddies spice Abrams' narrative. She describes the terrors and agonies of childhood, dealing with mockery, serving as a liaison between her parents and the outer world, getting her first job, hooking up a radio and telephone, and making critical decisions: getting married, starting a family, looking after her parents. She chronicles everyday events and crises, family squabbles, personality clashes, her fantasies, dreams, and early romances, the way Al, whom she marries, enters her parents' lives, and how she and Ad share daughterly responsibility. Like other CODAs, Char is occasionally torn between an intensely protective loyalty to her parents and the need to establish a separate life for herself. Above all, it's a story about communication and the bonds of love. Much is left unsaid.

Joe is a memorable character—a former professional boxer whose ring name was "Dummy Jordan," a tobacco-spitting patriot with a streak of boastful machismo, and, for all that, a devoted father and husband.

Stubborn, proud, and stoical, Ruthie had one cold, lifeless hand, but was able to function quite well with the other, signing and all. She joked to her girls that Joe was "still a bum," and retained something of her old "sass and vinegar" to the end. The main crisis of her life was losing her sight when she was in her forties. Yet she struck forth, towards independence.

Fittingly, Abrams' book ends a few years after her parents' deaths, with Ad's telephoning her after encountering a Deaf mother signing to her hearing daughter on a bus. The cycle continues. The legacy is shared.

by Linda Levitan

FOR HEARING PEOPLE ONLY™

Should *all* deaf institutions and agencies be headed by deaf people?

One frequently-debated question in the Deaf community, especially in light of DPN's 10th anniversary, is: "Should all hearing executive directors, superintendents, principals, and officers of deaf institutions cede power to their deaf counterparts?" Is this what we *really* want? Or need? Will it benefit us?

In a "Guest Column" published in the **Greensboro News & Record** a week after DPN ended, Dr. Elisabeth Zinser made a provocative comment: "As the civil rights of deaf people are assimilated fully in our society, it will be as conceivable to have a hearing president of Gallaudet, once again, as it will be to have a deaf president of the University of North Carolina. We are not there yet. Not now."

We agree. In an ideal world, the Deaf and Hearing communities work together towards their mutual advantage. There is no discrimination, political game-playing, power struggles, or crab theory. All candidates are judged solely on their merits. In the real world, of course, dirty games are played everywhere. Discrimination hasn't been magically erased by the passage of the ADA. Each faction looks out for its own interests. But . . . why should the goals of either community *have* to be in conflict with each other?

Consider the distinguished careers of hearing people who devoted their time, energy, and sometimes their lives, to the cause of deaf education and advocacy. The Abbé de l'Epée was one of the first to break free from stereotypical views, to approach deaf people as a student, to learn their language, and to see it as a valuable mode of communication. Many of his successors at the National Institute in Paris were patriarchal oppressors, to be sure. But a few were our friends and allies. The founding of the American School for the Deaf is a story of cooperation, shared civic responsibility, and acceptance of risks. And a common desire to achieve a goal: bringing education to the deaf population of the United States.

In his **History of the Kentucky School for the Deaf,** published in honor of KSD's centennial, Charles P. Fosdick makes an arresting comment about KSD's fifth superintendent, David C. Dudley: "Mr. Dudley had grown up among the deaf, was entirely at home with them and

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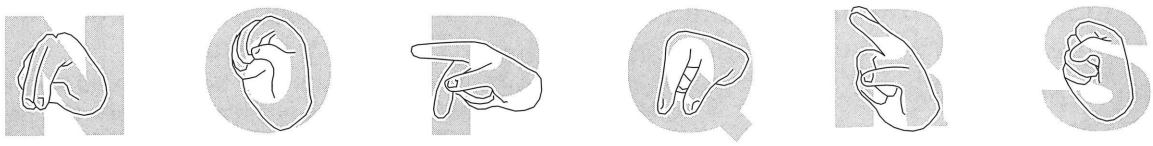

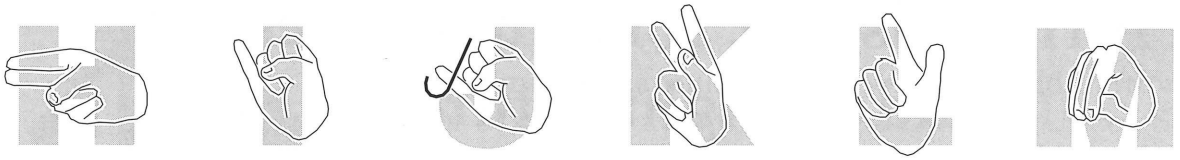

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thoroughly devoted to their interests." This sentiment is echoed by George M. McClure, writing about KSD's eighth superintendent, Augustus Rogers: "The deaf had no more loyal friend than he."

Can a hearing administrator wielding power over deaf people be a "loyal friend" of the Deaf community? Of course. Relatively few deaf people headed schools for the deaf until the last decade or so. But not all of these hearing superintendents ruthlessly imposed narrow, distorted, paternalistic-oppressor views about language and deaf people's capabilities onto their charges. Some advocated on behalf of Deaf rights. Harvey Prindle Peet and his son Isaac Lewis Peet, who both headed Fanwood, were "giants in the field." Philip Gillett, who headed the Illinois School for the Deaf, recommended legislation to have fingerspelling taught in all public schools in Illinois. (A *very* advanced idea!) And consider two eminent contemporary superintendents: Oscar Cohen of the Lexington School and Winfield McChord, Jr. of ASD. Our community just wouldn't be the same without them.

Superintendents of schools for the deaf aren't the only luminaries. Dr. Edward Allen Fay, scholar, researcher, and longtime editor of the **American Annals of the Deaf**, grew up at the Michigan School for the Deaf, where his father was superintendent, and supported the right of Deaf people to be educated through sign language at a time when it was feared that sign language would be swept away by the oralist tidal wave. Mary E. Switzer, the visionary Commissioner of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, helped launch the National Theatre of the Deaf, RID, Captioned Films for the Deaf, and CSUN's National Leadership Training Program, among others. Ray L. Jones headed the newly-formed NLTP at CSUN. Edna Simon Levine, a noted psychologist at New York University, and Broadway actress Anne Bancroft, used their connections and clout to help launch NTD. Dr. Levine and Jerome Schein created the renowned NYU Deafness Research & Training Center. Elizabeth Peet, Isaac Lewis Peet's daughter, inspired Martin L. A. Sternberg to compile his monumental ASL dictionary.

Take away our hearing friends, supporters, advocates, students, teachers, and angels, and you end up with a picture riddled with holes. There simply can be no Deaf history without hearing leadership and support.

Replacing a hearing administrator with a deaf one makes sense *if* the deaf candidate is qualified and the hearing administrator isn't acting in our best interests or is voluntarily stepping down. And is it fair to replace a deaf administrator with a hearing one? If the hearing administrator does a better job than the deaf one, surely. Being deaf or hearing should not be the issue. Ability should.

It all comes down to a question of interest: Can a hearing person in a powerful and influential position have the Deaf community's interests at heart?

Certainly, and they do so every day. When we feel outrage at the shenanigans of hearing profiteers, thieves, exploiters, and other scoundrels who victimize deaf people, we remind ourselves that every community is like a barrel of rubies intermixed with rotten apples. The small number of rotten apples shouldn't make us lose sight of the rubies.■

Have a question about Deaf people and their culture?...
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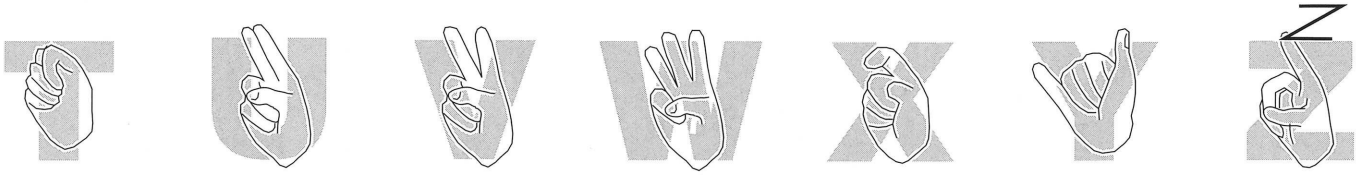
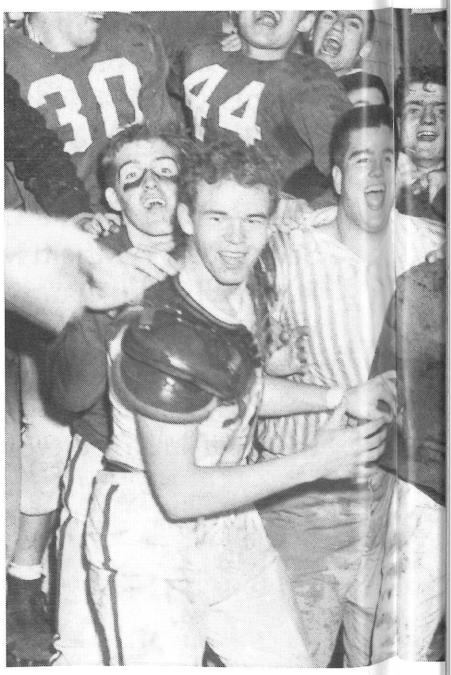


A rich history, fond memories, and a bright future:

KSD celebrates its 175th



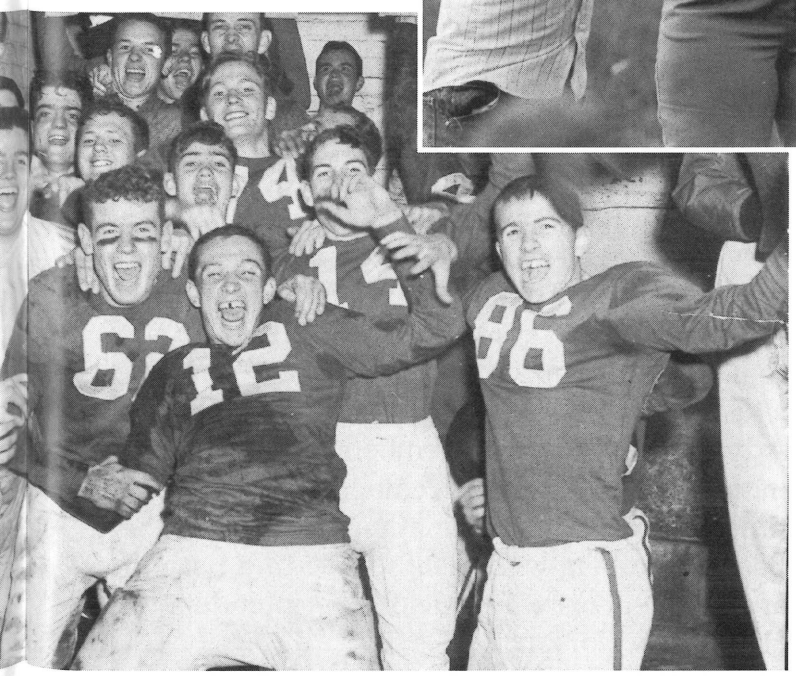
On April 15, 1817, the first school for the deaf in the United States opened in Hartford, Connecticut.

At the time, no one could have foreseen that "Old Hartford" was to be the first of many. The numbers of the deaf in the United States were then considered so small, it was thought that "Old Hartford" would be able to accommodate all of them, hence the name, *American* Asylum. But it was soon discovered that the number was much greater than had been supposed. One school was not enough. More schools were necessary. New York School for the Deaf ("Fanwood") was founded in 1818, and Pennsylvania School for the Deaf in 1820. Kentucky School for the Deaf, patterned after ASD, came next. It was the first such school west of the Alleghenies, and the first state-supported one.

As with "Old Hartford," KSD originated from need—and the love of a father for his deaf child. Lucy Barbee was the only deaf child but the favorite of Elias Barbee of Kentucky. He was a "prominent citizen" who had served as a general in the Kentucky militia, and represented Green County in the state House of Representatives (1809-12 and 1825-27) and Senate (1821-23). Lucy had been deafened in early childhood, and was beautiful and charming. General Barbee was naturally interested in deaf affairs. He learned of two other deaf children in Green County: Jabez Gaddie and Eveline Sherrill. He also knew about the recently-founded schools for the deaf in the East, and was determined to obtain an education for Lucy and the other deaf children of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Since he was a member of the Kentucky Senate, he introduced the bill establishing a school for the deaf. An excerpt:

> Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky; That the Trustees and their successors of the Central College at Danville shall be, and they are hereby authorized and empowered to receive by legacies, conveyances, or otherwise, lands, slaves, money and other property, and the same to retain, use and apply to the education of the deaf and dumb within this Commonwealth, and to any amount, the interest, profits or proceeds of which shall not exceed the sum of thirty thousand dollars per annum.
>
> The institution shall be located in Danville, in Mercer County, and supported by the donations and legacies of the charitable, by such aid as the Legislature may be pleased to afford and by the money to be received for the education of children whose parents, guardians or friends are unable to pay (...)



This bill was drawn up by Judge John Rowan and introduced in the Senate by General Barbee on October 26, 1822. It was voted on and passed November 27 (20 yeas and 13 nays). The bill was introduced into the House of Representatives on

In earlier days: Views of two trade classes: printing for boys, sewing for girls.

December 5 and quickly passed, on December 7 (57 yeas and 22 nays). Governor John Adair signed the bill, making it law.

In his centennial history, Charles P. Fosdick cited a bit of KSD folklore: a Scrooge-like legislator who was prejudiced against educating the deaf and not only opposed the bill but worked hard to prevent its passage. He had a child who later lost his (or her) hearing. And so he brought his deaf child "to the very school whose establishment he had so strongly opposed."

Judge Rowan was responsible for including the vital provision that financial support should be drawn from the Kentucky treasury's public-school fund. These appropriations were expected to be supplemented by charitable donations. But this didn't happen. KSD was state-funded from the start.

The new school was designated as "The Kentucky Asylum for the Tuition of the Deaf and Dumb." The use of the term "Asylum," as applied to a school, was soon recognized as inappropriate, but no change was made until the Legislature, by an act dated January 27th, 1882, changed it to "The Kentucky Institution for the Education of Deaf-Mutes." On March 19, 1904, in response to a petition from the Kentucky Association of the Deaf, the Legislature again changed the name to the current form: "The Kentucky School for the Deaf."

The precise legal status of the school wasn't legally determined for almost 90 years. The KAD persuaded the Legislature to permanently fix the status of KSD as an educational and not a charitable institution by the passage of an act approved March 13, 1912:

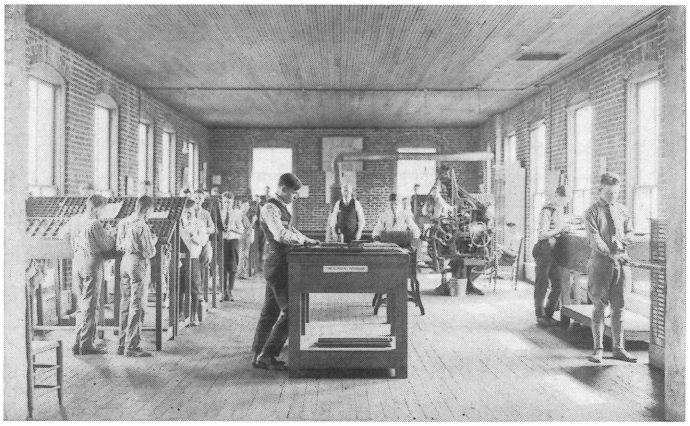
> . . . and said School for the Deaf shall be regarded, classed and conducted wholly as an educational institution of the State; and its classification, conduct and management shall be wholly separate and distinct from that of benevolent, charitable, custodial, and correctional institutions of the Commonwealth.

THE BOARD

As provided in the act establishing the school, KSD was placed by the Legislature under the jurisdiction of the Board of Trustees of Centre College. During the 47 years the Board governed the school (honorably, to be sure), it was largely composed of Presbyterian ministers, with a number of laymen, among whom were several who afterwards became prominent in the annals of Danville, Boyle County, the state, and the nation.

Until 1870, KSD was governed by the Centre College Board of Trustees. From 1870 to 1960 it was governed by its own board of commissioners, who were appointed by the governor to serve 6-year terms (later reduced to 4 years). In 1960, legislation placed the jurisdiction of the school under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Education within the Kentucky Department of Education. KSD, it was hoped, would fare better in the scramble for funds to meeting rising costs and replacement of aged buildings.

KSD's Board of Commissioners then became an Advisory Board of five members, which has since increased to seven. In September 1994, for the first time in KSD's history, a majority of the Advisory Board members were deaf, coinciding with the appointment of the first deaf superintendent, Dr. Harvey Jay Corson.



The boys' woodworking shop, and a patriotic group.

A PLACE . . . AND A TEACHER

As soon as the Barbee-Rowan bill was passed, the Board went to work. An inn, the "Yellow House," which stood on the southwest corner of Main and Fourth Streets on Danville, was rented and fitted up as a school. The Board engaged Rev. John Rice Kerr and his wife as Superintendent and Matron of the boarding department.

The biggest problem was how to obtain a teacher for the new school. The handful of teachers with any experience in the field of deaf education were all busily engaged in the Eastern schools. None could be spared. Rev. Thomas H. Gallaudet, principal of the American Asylum, recommended that a young man from Kentucky be chosen and sent to Hartford to learn the methods used there. But this would have taken a few years at the least, and the Board were anxious to begin work at once.

A certain David Caldwell Irvine petitioned the Legislature at the same time General Barbee's bill was making the rounds, claiming to be an "educated deaf-mute" and requesting an appropria-

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tion to enable him to teach the deaf of the state for one year. No action was taken on Irvine's petition, so he applied to the Board for employment. Believing that he was a qualified teacher, they hired him. They soon discovered that he was a fake—a hearing con man. The Board quickly discharged him for misconduct.

On April 10, 1823, the first three students—Lucy Barbee, age 24, Jabez Gaddie, age 16, and Eveline Sherrill, age 12—began their schooling, More arrived during the following months. Since there was no other teacher available when the school opened, Rev. Kerr assumed that responsibility. He was totally unacquainted with the methods of teaching the deaf being used in the East. Even so, he was a dedicated teacher. KSD's first Report said, "the progress of the pupils has exceeded our most sanguine expectations." Fosdick adds dryly, "At this time, however, any results in educating the deaf, however meager, would have excited astonishment."

The new school became something of a popular attraction. Visitors popped in "to marvel at the spectacle of 'imparting useful knowledge to persons deaf and dumb."

By November, there were 15 students from various counties. Nine of these were paying pupils; the other six were supported by the state. More than half were adults. A little education was infinitely better than no education at all.

A few facts are known about these earliest students. Lucy Barbee lived with a married sister in Taylor County until her death around 1850. The longest-surviving member of that first class, Eveline Sherrill, died in 1900 at age 87. She was the guest of honor at KSD's first reunion in 1891 (during which the Kentucky Association of the Deaf was formed). Barney McMahon, who entered KSD in July 1823 at age 12, was its first deaf employee, serving as a supervisor from 1826 to 1831.

Meanwhile, the Board continued to correspond with the Eastern schools, hoping to obtain "a trained and experienced teacher." They engaged De Witt Clinton Mitchell, son of the president of the New York School, who had one year's experience teaching there. Mitchell was hired in May 1823, with an advance salary of $500 and board with traveling expenses to Danville. He took a long, long time to arrive in Danville, having stopped in Baltimore and had himself a good time until his money was gone. More money was sent to him, and he finally arrived in Danville on October 6.

Even after World Wars I and II, as James B. Beauchamp put it, "the school continued like an island in the river of time." Old-fashioned practices were retained long after other schools had abandoned them.

After a few months, it became obvious that Mitchell was an incompetent teacher. So the Board resumed their search. They chose an 18-year-old student at Centre College, John Adamson Jacobs, and offered him the post of assistant teacher. He accepted, and began work at once. But after a few weeks, he realized to succeed as a teacher of the deaf, he absolutely *had* to learn the methods of instruction in the Eastern schools. There was no way around it. The Board advanced Jacobs the sum of $968, and he set out on horseback for Hartford, arriving 30 days later, on August 15, 1824. He was given a warm welcome by Rev. Gallaudet and Laurent Clerc, who immediately arranged a course of instruction for him. They told him that it would require 3 years to gain the skill and knowledge needed to head the Kentucky Asylum. But Jacobs didn't have sufficient money to fund such a long stay, "so he determined to do the best he could with the time and means allotted to him. He took private lessons from Mr. Clerc at 40 cents an hour and his entire time was spent in the schoolrooms and in company with the pupils." He roomed and dined with them. Fifteen months later, in September 1825, he returned to Danville, riding the same white horse that he had ridden east. He brought with him an enthusiastic letter of recommendation from Clerc.

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Hartford, Sept. 20, 1825

To the Directors of the Kentucky Institution for the Deaf and Dumb

Gentlemen:—Mr. John A. Jacobs, being on the eve of his departure for Kentucky, I will candidly express my opinion of his qualifications. He came to us fifteen months ago, I may say as a gentleman of excellent talents, exemplary character, and liberal education, but wholly unacquainted with the art of instructing the deaf and dumb: now he leaves us, well stored with a knowledge of our language of signs, and well initiated in all the secrets of our system: therefore I do not hesitate to recommend him to you, gentlemen, as a suitable person to be at the head of your institution, and I feel confident of his ability, not only to fill up the outlines that we have pointed out to him, both in our public lectures and private lessons, but also to afford ample and useful instruction in the various departments of knowledge to the deaf and dumb.

Now, gentlemen, allow me to tender to you, individually and collectively, my personal thanks for your generous exertions to promote the temporal and spiritual welfare of my unfortunate brothers beyond the Alleghany mountains, and to add my prayers for the prosperity of your institution.

Laurent Clerc

On his return, Jacobs "found the school in a demoralized condition, the pupils making little or no progress. He at once set about the task of instructing them with such zeal and success that on November 12th the Board appointed him Principal of the school." Mitchell conveniently resigned and returned to New York. Fosdick remarked: "Of his subsequent career nothing is known."

Jacobs became a distinguished teacher of the deaf. He introduced an early form of Signed Exact English, "Methodical Signs," into the classroom. A disagreement between Jacobs and other teachers about the best method of signing was carried on in the **American Annals of the Deaf** for years. Jacobs' system wasn't popular with the others,

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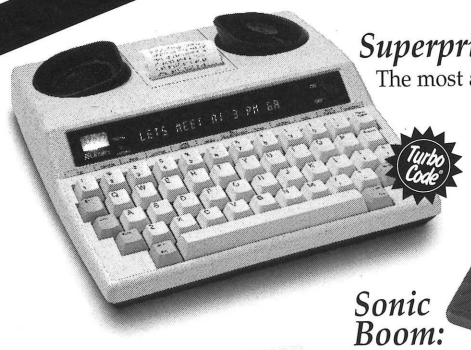

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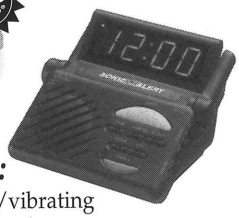

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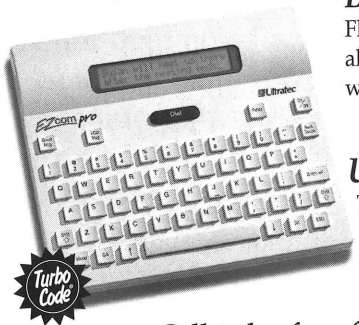

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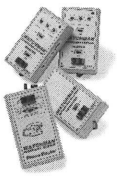

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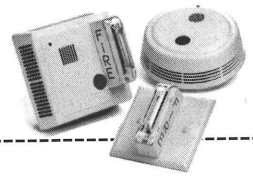

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

but prevailed at KSD. It was used by his successors for a while, then gradually died out.

A PERMANENT HOME

On January 7, 1824, Legislature approved an act increasing the per capita allowance for state pupils to $150, authorizing the admission of paying students from other states, and appropriating $3,000 for the purchase of suitable buildings.

Two years after it opened, the school moved from its rented quarters on Main Street to its present location on South Second Street. The Board had begun buying up buildings and parcels of land for KSD's campus. Gradually, the holdings expanded, then later, after KSD no longer had a farm or needed pasturage, some holdings were sold off or exchanged. (KSD's campus has 175 acres today.)

With the help of Henry Clay and others, KSD received two federal land grants from the U.S. Congress in 1826 and 1836. These tracts of land in Florida and Arkansas were eventually sold to finance the purchase of additional lands and the construction of school facilities.

In an amusingly unprophetic statement, Jacobs assured the Board in 1831 that "there is no probability that the number of pupils in the school will ever exceed twenty-five, or that there will ever be need of more than two teachers."

It was also originally thought that KSD would be able to serve the deaf population of the South *and* the West. Pupils from all the Southern states except Florida, and from as far away as Montana, attended KSD. Eventually, other states established their own schools.

Originally, the number of pupils supported by the state was limited to 25, the period they could remain under instruction to 3 years, and the per capita allowed for their support to $100 per annum. These limitations were found impractical and gradually increased. By 1854, it was provided that all children under 13 years of age could stay

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Beauty & skill: girls getting haircuts on campus, and sewing.

in school until they reached 21. That same year, KSD was made free to all deaf children in the state, regardless of their parents' financial status.

BRICKS & TIMBER

Many of KSD's old buildings were constructed in the popular Greek Revival style associated with the South: porticos, columns, Greek pediments. None of these survive, though.

The Main Building, now known as Jacobs Hall, is KSD's most venerable landmark, the only remaining building from the 19th-century campus. It was designed in the popular Renaissance Revival style (what we think of as classic Victorian school architecture!), and constructed of hand-made bricks, choice extra-thick lumber, and all other items of the best quality so that very little upkeep was necessary. The cornerstone was laid April 15, 1855, and it was completed November 17, 1857.

Jacobs Hall has seen almost continuous use, having served as a classroom building, a girls' dormitory, and residence for superintendents, teachers, and various other staff members in past decades. It now houses the superintendent's office and residence, and a museum.

The museum houses artifacts dating back to the 1800s, including Laurent Clerc's letter of commendation for John A. Jacobs, Sr. Copies of **The Kentucky Standard** dating back to 1874 are kept here, along with many other interesting items—documents, china, furniture, textbooks, pictures, records, and land grants signed by Presidents John Quincy Adams in 1828 and Martin Van Buren in 1838.

SEPARATE & UNEQUAL

Before the Civil War, no provision was made by the state for the education of black children, deaf or hearing. After the war, frequent applications were made for the admission of black children to KSD. These were refused. Nonetheless, KSD recognized the need for some sort of arrangement. In 1874, the Board recommended that a school be opened for them, but 10 years went by before the Legislature took action. By an act dated May 9, 1884, a school was finally established for the "colored deaf."

Educating black and white deaf children together was, in those days, unthinkable. KSD, like all other Southern schools and colleges, was racially segregated until the mid-1950s. Following the landmark Supreme Court ruling in 1954, integration at KSD was gradual, and by 1963, complete.

After legislative appropriations were made, KSD purchased the old Grigsby homestead, "Warrick," just across the street from the "white school." It included spacious grounds, gardens, and a large 2-story Colonial mansion. Warrick Hall was converted to school use and enlarged in 1887 and 1890. Old illustrations show it to have been a handsome building—at least from the outside.

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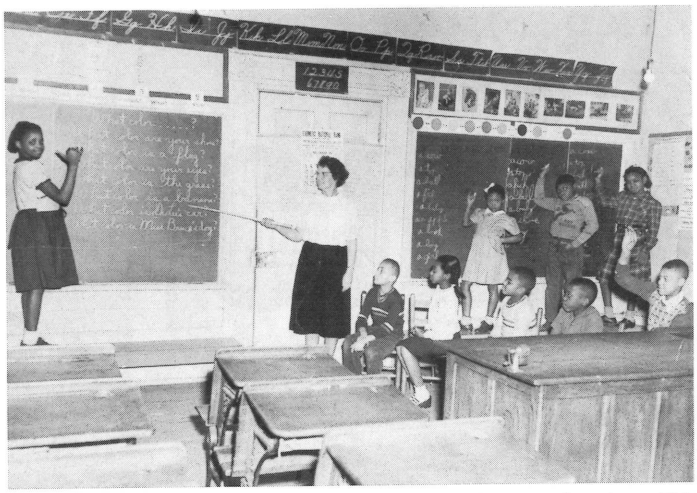


Left: a class for black students. Right: Miss Josephine Nunnelley's class, with amplification, 1967..

The Colored Department was about one-tenth the size of the White Department, and received a fraction of KSD's total budget. In 1897, the peak year, there were 50 students and four teachers.

The reality of deaf black people's lives in the segregated South during the pre-Civil Rights era must have been grim, but black students at KSD surely enjoyed the free communication and the friendships they formed there. After school, they entered the usual trades open to blacks: agriculture, domestic service, cleaning, and manual labor.

CAMPUS LIFE

Much as ASD had been founded as a Congregationalist institution, KSD was Presbyterian. School days began with a short religious service. On Sundays there were morning and afternoon services. Grace was said before meals.

Life at school was demanding; luxuries, at least during the 19th century, were few. The students were expected to do certain chores and learn trades. But KSD's limited size and resources during its first 50 years made it impossible to build and equip shops and hire instructors. Another problem was that Kentucky was a slave state. Black slaves did most of the manual labor. According to Fosdick, some of the parents of KSD students "felt that it would be a degradation for their children to perform manual labor of any kind." Several girls were taken out of school because their parents didn't want them doing "servile" work like making their own beds, washing dishes, or assisting with other household tasks. (Ladies didn't work.)

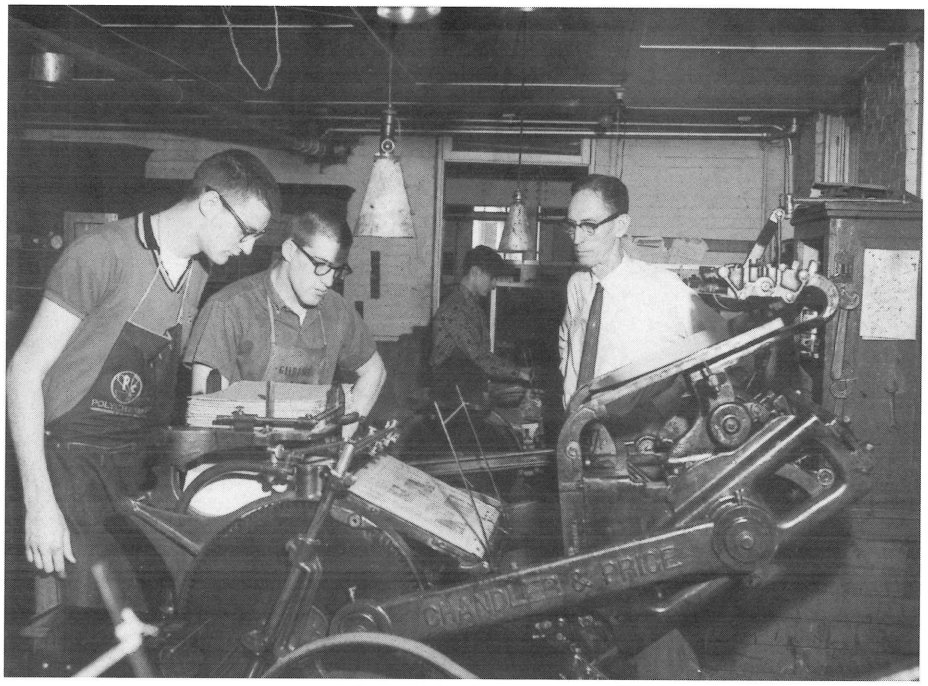
Extracurricular activities at KSD have resembled those at other schools for the deaf. The Christian Endeavor Society lasted over 50 years. KSD's Literary Society, founded in 1857, was likely the first such society formed at a school for the deaf. It was responsible for commissioning the splendid portrait of Laurent Clerc from John Carlin, which still hangs in the chapel. Other portraits of distinguished teachers and administrators were commissioned by the Literary Society, and paid for by student and alumni contributions.

Even though KSD wasn't able to set up regular shops, it provided for the industrial education of the boys by apprenticing them part-time to local tinners, harnessmakers, carpenters, blacksmiths, shoemakers, marble cutters, tailors, carriagemakers, and printers. "A number of them became skilled workers." This system was halted by the Civil War and didn't resume afterwards.

In April 1874, James Goodloe George, a teacher who had graduated from KSD in 1843 and was a product of the old apprenticeship system and a veteran newspaper publisher, set up a printing office in a small room on the second floor of the old chapel building. There was an old Washington hand press and four cases of type. That was the beginning of KSD's Industrial Department. The print shop was moved to the old shop building in 1880, then, in 1881, to the new shop building. George and the students also began publication of a little monthly school paper, **The Kentucky Deaf-Mute.** It was later enlarged and pub-

lished biweekly, then, in 1882, became a weekly. In 1896, the name was changed to **The Kentucky Standard**. George edited it until his death in 1876. John Yeager was editor until 1879, Fosdick from 1879 to 1883, George M. McClure, Sr., from 1883 to 1942; James B. Beauchamp from 1942 to 1975.

Superintendent Dudley established, on a modest scale, a carpentry shop. Bookbinding, and broom- and mattress-making were tried but discontinued because they weren't profitable enough. Shoemaking was added in 1886; tailoring in 1899. Gardening had been done by students from the start. For many years, KSD had its own dairy, and the students assisted with that.



In the printing shop.

Girls were instructed in sewing and housekeeping, first by the matrons, then by hired teachers. They were not allowed to learn any other trades. They served food, and, until dishwashers were installed, washed the dishes by hand. There was a laundry staff, but the girls did their own ironing. Art instruction, for those who showed talent, was begun in 1922, as was Domestic Science.

EARNING A LIVING

What did they do after leaving KSD? Most former students returned to the farms they had come from, or started their own farms, plantations, nurseries, or orchards, in Kentucky and other states. Several were quite successful. Some became teachers and clerks. Others entered the trades: e.g., shopkeepers, barbers, contractors/builders, postmasters and mail carriers, electricians, and chemists. A good number found positions at KSD and other schools for the deaf. After farming, printing was the most popular trade. Many printers from KSD became expert Linotypists. Others joined the workforce at the Goodyear Rubber Works in Akron, or the Ford Factory in Detroit. They became solid, taxpaying citizens, bought their own houses, attended church, and joined clubs and benevolent societies.

Many of the officers and teachers of KSD have had long tenures, some staying on for several decades. Turnaround has been relatively low. Students and staff have developed great fondness for KSD.

MENTORS & FRIENDS

KSD's records show a relatively low turnover among its teachers and staff. Many of the officers and teachers of KSD have had long tenures, some staying on for several decades. Perhaps the most notable was Dr. George M. McClure, Sr. (1861-1966), who was associated with KSD for 80 years as a pupil, teacher (1880-1937, a record 59 years), and editor of **The Kentucky Standard** (a record 59 years). He died on his 105th birthday, and is still fondly remembered.*

McClure was known as the "Dean of the Little Paper Family." After retiring from teaching in 1937, he regularly contributed a popular column, "Among My Books," to the **Standard** until he was 100. When he retired as editor of the **Standard** in 1942, he was succeeded by Beauchamp, who also made his mark on KSD history, and, like McClure, Fosdick, and school photographer Charles A. Thomas, had a campus building named in his honor.

A celebration!

WHILE WAR RAGED

In 1833, an epidemic of Asiatic cholera swept the South and West. KSD was closed. Students who lived nearby went home; those who came from afar were placed with farmers in the country. Rev. Kerr, stricken by cholera, died on June 29; his wife took ill and died almost immediately after he was buried. She was hastily buried without a coffin. Another epidemic swept Danville in 1849. Again the school was closed and the students sent to the country. Fifteen took ill, but only one died.

After the Kerrs died, Dr. Luke Munsell and his wife were appointed Superintendent and Matron. After two years, they retired. Jacobs was appointed Superintendent and moved in, consolidating the offices of principal and superintendent. In 1854, he persuaded the Board to take charge of boarding the students and to allot him an annual salary of $1,000.

Under the skillful administration of Jacobs, and his assistants, the school prospered. Jacobs' wife, daughters, and sons all supported him in his work, serving as matrons, teachers, or commissioners. During the 1860-61 term, there were 92 students and 6 teachers.

As with the American School for the Deaf, KSD's origins were based on need—and the love of parents for their deaf children. And, like ASD, KSD has grown tremendously since its modest beginnings.

When the Civil War broke out in Spring 1861, Southern schools for the deaf were hit hard. The Mississippi school was burned down, and all of the others were closed during part or the whole period, their buildings occupied by invading armies and damaged, their equipment destroyed. KSD luckily remained open, but enrollment was greatly reduced. Three teachers—John A. Jacobs, Jr., William Jacobs, and Charles H. Talbott—resigned their positions and enlisted in the Union army. William, who was to have succeeded his father as superintendent, never returned.

KSD was almost seized for use as a Confederate hospital, but Jacobs held firm. In Perryville, only 9 miles away from Danville, one of the bloodiest battles of the war was fought. Wandering bands of guerrillas engaged in robbery and murder. Knowing that one such band was approaching Danville, students helped to hide the school's horses and cows in the hills near Dix River. On another occasion, they were herded into the schoolrooms and safely concealed under the danger passed.

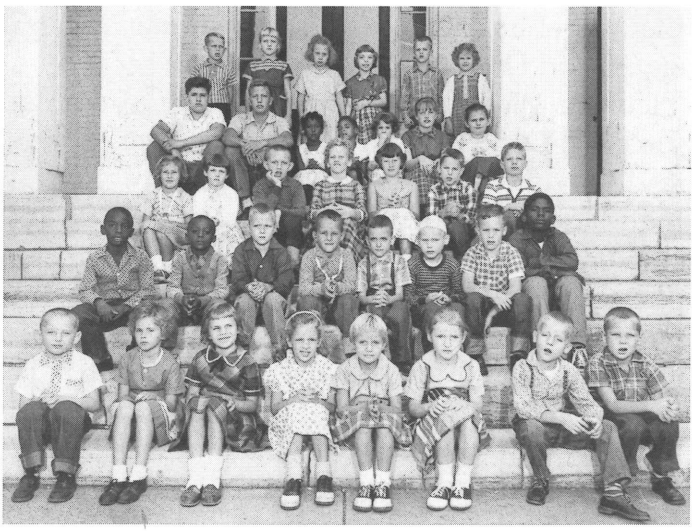
AFTER JACOBS

Exhausted and grieving over the death of his son, Jacobs died on November 27, 1869, loved, honored, and respected as a teacher, administrator, and leader. As Fosdick put it: "For many years he was the school and the school was he." Governor Stevenson called his death "a public calamity."

Jacobs Hall, built in 1857, named a National Historic Landmark in 1966.

He was succeeded as Superintendent by his nephew, John A. Jacobs, Jr., who held that post until he died on December 28, 1878. During his administration, in 1870, jurisdiction of the school was transferred from Centre College to the State Legislature.

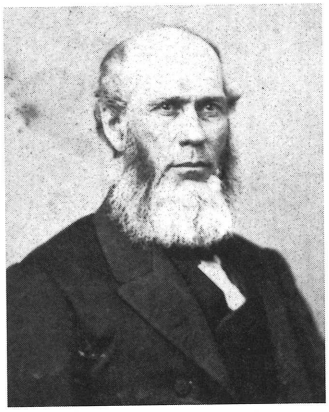
During the 3-month interval before a new superintendent was found, the matron, Mary F. Dudley, acted as superintendent, assisted by a teacher, George F. Lupton. In March 1879, David Christopher Dudley, a teacher at the North Carolina School for the Deaf, was appointed superintendent. Fosdick says that he "had grown up among the deaf, was entirely at home with them and thoroughly devoted to their interests. By his energy and executive ability new life was infused into the school." The enrollment passed 100. More teachers were hired, a handsome chapel and new boys' buildings were constructed, and the industrial department enlarged.



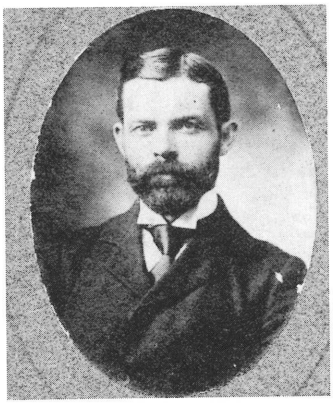
New KSD students.

He was succeeded by William Kavanaugh Argo,

John R. Kerr



John A. Jacobs, Sr.



John A. Jacobs, Jr.

David C. Dudley

who had been his assistant for some years. Argo was the son of deaf parents; his mother had attended KSD. During his administration, many improvements were made to the school. The Colored Department was put into operation, an addition was made to the schoolhouse, a new laundry was built, and KSD's real-estate holdings vastly expanded.

John Edwin Ray's administration was notable for the large increase in attendance. Says Fosdick: "He organized an active campaign to find and bring to the school the uneducated deaf children of the state with the result of increasing the pupils to over three hundred."

During Dr. Augustus Rogers' administration, larger cottages for younger students and a new power plant were built, the shop buildings doubled in size, and extensive additions made to the chapel building. New departments, notably as Art and Domestic Science, were launched.

During World War I, lack of appropriations forced KSD to open late and close early. Nonetheless, the dedication of the faculty and staff were high, and they struggled to maintain a decent standard in spite of the cut-back schedule and disorganized classes. All of the male officers and employees were over the draft age, but practically all of them, and the students, had enlisted relatives. Everyone participated in Liberty Bonds, fundraising drives, and the restrictions on the consumption of sugar and other conservables.

CELEBRATING A CENTURY

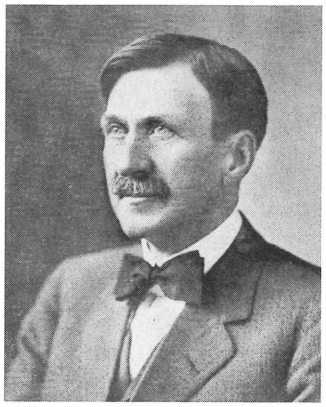
KSD marked its Centennial on April 10, 1923. A colorful pageant, "The Lost Sense," was performed on the lawn after the school term ended in May. An oak tree was planted near the southwest corner of Jacobs Hall. After it was set in place, each officer and student filed past and dropped a handful of soil over the roots.

By the time of KSD's centennial, a total of 2,544 students had been enrolled; 209 officers had served the school. There were 399 students currently enrolled (312 whites and 27 in the Colored Department), making KSD the 7th-largest school for the deaf in the nation.

TO SIGN OR TO SPEAK?

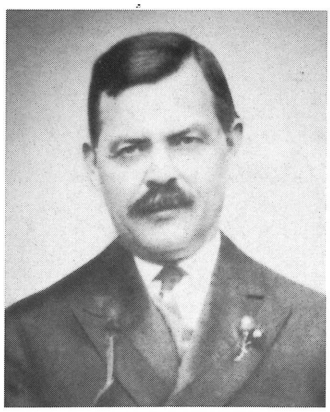
Like ASD, KSD was originally a signing school. During its first 60 years, sign language was the mode used in the classroom. Some attention was given to preserving and improving the speech of the "semi-mutes" (students who had learned to talk before becoming deaf), but there was no regular speech training until 1884, when an articulation teacher was hired. As oralism took over the educational scene, KSD established oral and manual departments: the "Combined Method." Students were first placed in the oral department, and kept there if they made good progress. If they failed to thrive under the oral method, they were transferred to the manual department. About two-thirds of the students were in the oral department; one-third in the manual. Some classrooms used a blend of both oral and signing methods if the students benefitted from it.

The oralism-first emphasis was the rule at most schools for the deaf for nearly a century. Outside



William K. Argo

John E. Ray



Augustus Rogers

John W. Hudson, Jr.

of the classes, all the students signed to each other, as freely as they were able.

INTO THE MODERN ERA

After the Centennial, improvements and changes continued. KSD got an attractive new gymnasium in 1925. KSD scraped and struggled through some very lean years during the Great Depression.

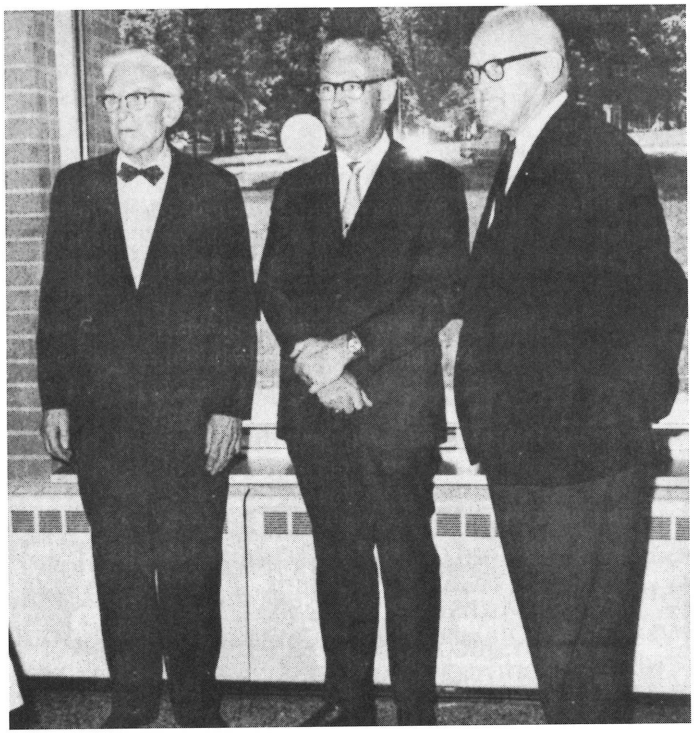
During World War II, major repairs were made in Dudley, Kerr, and Jacobs Halls. Outdated wiring, plumbing, and heating systems were replaced. The roofs were repaired. In 1948, Kerr Hall's food-service and kitchen facilities were modernized. Due to the high cost of repair, KSD closed down its bakery in 1953.

In some ways, though, as Beauchamp put it, "the school continued like an island in the river of time." KSD was slow to give up time-honored but old-fashioned practices such as operating a school farm and dairy, morning chapel service, supervised evening study hall, admission of preschool children, and barracks-style dormitories. Long after these had been abandoned by other schools, KSD retained them. The herd of fine

SUPERINTENDENTS

1. John R. Kerr (1823-1833)
2. Luke Munsell (1833-1835)
3. John A. Jacobs, Sr. (1825-1869)
4. John A. Jacobs, Jr. (1869-1879)
5. David C. Dudley (1879-1884)
6. William K. Argo (1884-1894)
7. John E. Ray (1894-1896)
8. Augustus Rogers (1896-1928)
9. Madison J. Lee (1928-1959)
10. Charles B. Grow (1959-1966)
11. Jack W. Brady (1966-1971)
12. W. Winfield McChord, Jr. (1971-1981)
13. John W. Hudson, Jr. (1981-1994)
14. Harvey J. Corson (1994-

KSD officers, 1888. George M. McClure stand second from right in the back row.

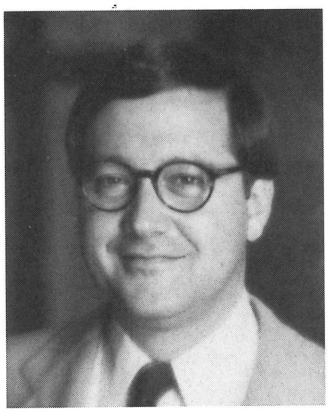


Left to right: Dr. Madison J. Lee, Jack W. Brady, and Charles B. Grow.

Holstein cows was finally exiled from campus, and KSD obtained is milk from outside. Beef cattle and hogs were kept for a while, though. Agricultural studies were gradually dropped from the curriculum, ceasing altogether in 1971.

The older buildings were now considered fire hazards, so sprinkler systems, fire escapes and doors, and alarms were installed. Throughout the nation, schools for the deaf were being affected by the building boom that started in the 1950s. Existing buildings were enlarged, altered, or knocked down and replaced. At KSD, when it was determined that further remodeling or repair wasn't practical, new buildings replaced old.

The new-building campaign started in 1952 with the demolition of the ante-bellum mansion, Warrick Hall, which had deteriorated beyond repair during the century it was in use. A modern 2-story building, Booker T. Washington Hall, containing classrooms, dorms, a dining hall, and a small auditorium, was built for the Colored Department and completed in 1953. After KSD became integrated, Washington Hall became a primary unit.



Winfield McChord, Jr.

Harvey Jay Corson

New equipment was obtained for students in the vocational departments (tailoring, advanced printing, carpentry, and shoe repair). A course in driver education was started. With the coming of the "age of technology," KSD obtained group hearing aids and other audiovisual equipment for classrooms.

During his term as superintendent, Dr. Madison J. Lee oversaw the completion of a record 5 new buildings. He retired in 1959, having served for 48 years as teacher, principal, and superintendent, and was succeeded by Charles B. Grow. The library was moved to Lee Hall, the business offices expanded, the household staff reorganized, religious education shifted to local churches, and KSD became accredited. New courses were added, and hours and opening and closing dates were changed to comply with those established by the Kentucky Department of Education.

Because heads of departments were now compelled to retire at age 65, Grow resigned as superintendent and took the newly-created position of KSD's placement officer. Jack Whitmer Brady, previously superintendent of the West Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind, was appointed superintendent in 1966, when KSD's new-building campaign was well underway. During Brady's administration, students moved into the spacious and comfortable new dorms and a new food-service building was constructed. These moves vacated Dudley, Kerr, and Jacobs Halls.

Improvements were also made in the academic department: e.g., audiovisual aids, slides, projectors, a closed-circuit TV system and monitors in each classroom. A soundproof audiometric testing room was set up in Lee Hall, with a hearing-

aid-service station. In 1967, a vocational-rehabilitation facility was established in Argo-McClure Hall.

The nationwide rubella (German-measles) epidemic of 1963-64 resulted in the birth of many deaf and multiply-handicapped babies. Schools for the deaf began preparing for the arrival of the children of the "rubella bulge." In 1969, Governor Louie B. Nunn promised KSD a self-contained unit for primary-school children, to be ready for use September 1971. In seeking a convenient location for the primary unit, it was decided that old Dudley and Kerr Halls should be torn down to make room for it. Jacobs Hall, then 112 years old, was ceremonially dedicated as a National Historic Landmark on June 12, 1969, with a bronze plaque. The administrative offices were relocated from Dudley Hall to Jacobs Hall.

At the end of the 1969 school year, Willmot Winfield McChord, Jr. was appointed to fill KSD's newly-vacated position of principal. His parents were both KSD graduates, and he had visited the campus often. (He was also a distant cousin of William K. Argo.)

After Brady received an attractive offer to set up a new deaf program in Atlanta, he resigned his position at KSD. McChord became KSD's 12th superintendent in October 1971, the youngest head of any school for the deaf in the nation. The "rubella-bulge" children arrived at KSD that fall: a record 78 new students. And the primary unit was ready for them.

KSD held its Sesquicentennial Celebration in April 1973. A tulip poplar tree was ceremonially planted by the Alumni Association at the north side of Walker Hall. It was a glorious event.

A QUIET REVOLUTION

After McChord left KSD to head ASD, he was succeeded by John W. Hudson, Jr.

Dr. Harvey Jay Corson, KSD's fourteenth and first deaf superintendent, was appointed in 1994. (He was one of the first deaf superintendents, having headed the Mississippi School for the Deaf for 13 years, then serving as Gallaudet University's first provost.)

KSD began preparing for its 175th anniversary in Winter 1997.

INTO THE FUTURE

Today, KSD provides a comprehensive preschool through high-school educational program for deaf children of the state. Preschool Satellite Programs are operated in cooperation with various local school systems and local agencies in several areas of Kentucky. Both day and residential programs are offered. Deaf children and youth who reside in (or near) Danville attend classes as day students. They can choose from a variety of educational programs and extracurricular activities. City and county schools cooperate with KSD so that deaf and hard-of-hearing students can attend classes and activities with hearing students. Conversely, hearing students can attend KSD for vocational-technology courses.

Many graduates look back at their school days with affection. At KSD, the past is remembered; the future is prepared for.

Deaf Life This historical sketch is based primarily on material kindly provided by KSD. Charles P. Fosdick's **History of the Kentucky School for the Deaf** (1923), George M. McClure's Centennial article, "First State Supported School for the Deaf," and James B. Beauchamp's Sesquicentennial **History of the Kentucky School for the Deaf, 1923-1973**. Fosdick drew upon the files of the school newspaper, **The Kentucky Standard**, annual reports, official records in the State Capitol and county courthouse, school letters and documents, and his own "personal recollections." Beauchamps's commemorative book was enriched by numerous photographs taken by Charles A. Thomas ('27), printing instructor and school photographer. His snapshots of students, activities, and campus buildings are notable for their clarity.

Thanks to Artie Grassman, Acting Director of Outreach Services & Community Relations.

* McClure's descendants continued his legacy. One son, George McClure Jr., served as superintendent of the Indiana School for the Deaf. Another, William C. McClure, served as superintendent of the North Dakota and Missouri schools for the deaf. And *his* son William J. McClure was superintendent of the Florida School for the Deaf.

. . . A FEW MORE WORDS

On the Deaf Mexicans

How to halt the tide of illegal immigrants *and* make Deaf Mexicans agents of change in their own country? Education!

The plight of the Deaf Mexicans is an age-old cycle of futility. It is a Catch-22 situation.° Their intention to immigrate was simply for an opportunity [to] find a better quality of life; to break away from the negative/pathological perceptions of deafness in Mexico. But, Mexico this recent year began to recognize their disabled citizens as worthy contributors to society in positive and constructive ways. The window of opportunity to promote change over there is now. By attending the Second International Congress for the Disabled in Mexico, March 1997 (*Segundo Congreso Internacional La Discapaçidad En El Ano 2000*), I learned that a Deaf leadership body is in place!

As a Deaf Mexican-American, that trip to Mexico City with Dr. Gilbert Delgado was a special opportunity [for me] to communicate and associate with the Deaf Mexican delegates from their own states: Deaf State Association Ambassadors. I was able to formulate first-hand impressions of the collective body of Deaf empowerment groups capable to be their own agents of change. They were on the right road to change minus the know-how. Some can sign fluent *Lenguaje Signa Mexicanos* (LSM); others can speak fluent Spanish. But as a group they have the common longing for empowerment as Deaf Mexican Citizens!

The Mexican government was in the process of legislating priority of accessing services for all disabled citizens. It was only one year ago! It was similar in experience to the U.S. during the late 1960's and 1970's when we experienced unequal access: no ramps, elevators, wheelchair access, TTYs, Braille, sign-language interpreters, and other services, to elevate the disabled American to quality citizenship and opportunity for advancement up the career ladder. Today, American Deaf do not consider themselves disabled, but that initial period of change to achieve full self-identity is but a cultural constant for all other cultures. The Deaf Mexicans are in that situation now.

However, here is a distant difference between our countries. Public education is not a right but a privilege in Mexico. Careful scrutiny reveals that deaf students in public schools or day programs are not being equipped for advancement to higher education, nor white- or blue-collar positions; perceptions of *sordo* or *sordomudo* could be analogous to those medieval or colonial period[s] of social developments; labels that carry negative connotations which stigmatize them. Despite barriers, there are some unique Deaf Mexicans who by their own determination and resilience rise above it all. They do possess the intelligence and capability for empowerment, but it is inactive, needing a spark.

It is my opinion [that] providing the Deaf Mexicans, who were freed from a veritable life of slavery, with an American education base will someday benefit them to mobilize compatriots in Mexico and impact change there. Changes to earn them equality of access, propel them to move ahead into a new century of prosperity in their own country. Education can end the futile solution of illegal immigration to America that raise[s] the ire of U.S. citizens even of their own race. Education, I believe, is the best foundation toward self-empowerment.

Providing them with an education for a certain length of time to earn their U.S. Citizenship and further their education legally, or return to Mexico

and pursue similar goals within the strength of their culture and language, will promote discipline and knowledge for change. It will advance them into a more modern period of social worth.

Awarding them automatic U.S. Citizenship is not, in my opinion, a solution. Education will mean providing them with the intellectual adroitness to create their own solutions in the land of their ancestry and family. Of course, it will be the narrow road toward that end, but the very struggles to realize their own freedom and dreams [are] empowering [will] catapult them to desirable levels of equality among their own people. It will also be an education and reality shock for the Mexican Citizen just as the Deaf Americans jolted all Americans to perceive us for who were, for what we want to name our own values, language, norms, institutions, and true identity.

It should happen for them by their own vigor and determination to succeed, in their own land, Mexico. However backward the nation may be, when I visit family and friends there, [I see that] change is always present. Surely by small degree[s] with more and more educated Mexicans of their own, change will become a driving factor in that country, according to the precept of their own culture.

Viva Mexico!

Rafael Sedano
Santa Fe Community College
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Catch-22: (*idiom*) being stuck in a no-win situation or dilemma. The American Heritage Dictionary defines it as "a paradox in which seeming alternatives actually cancel each other out, leaving no means of escape from a dilemma." This expression is taken from Joseph Heller's classic antiwar satire, **Catch-22** (published in 1961), and refers to a rule whereby a fighter pilot is forced to go on bombing missions—unless he is crazy and refuses to go. But if he refuses to go, that proves he's sane, and so he's forced to go. Two everyday examples: an advertiser won't make a commitment to supporting a Deaf-owned company until it first achieves big sales. But the company cannot achieve big sales without the support of advertisers. That's a Catch-22 situation. Or knowing that you can't rent a room until you have a job—but you can't get a job until you have a place to stay. That's another Catch-22 situation. The Deaf Mexicans are in a similar situation: they couldn't find jobs in Mexico, but once they arrived in the United States, they were enslaved.

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DeafView

READERS' RESPONSES

Does the news media (TV reportage, especially) tend to have anti-Deaf Culture bias?

61% Yes 8% No 31% Not sure

YES—I think that media needs to be more informed by the deaf community that all of the Deaf people have the same right as the hearing people. They probably still living in their own world and some of them don't even know that there are Deaf people out there so I think we need to educate the hearing people and our own kids!

NOT SURE—I think the media is more uneducated in many respects than anything else. I think there needs to be more outreach by deaf social service agencies (e.g. NorCal, DCARA, etc.) in this country to media groups/entities and educate them on deaf issues. At the same time, use these connections to forge public relations ties that will benefit the community at large.
The one area I will readily concede the media is at fault is the consistent usage of "deaf-mute" in articles and the lack of real-time captioning and their arguments against captioning.

NOT SURE—The news has a bias no matter what they are covering so why is there or should there be a special bias for deaf? The ethics of news reporters indicate that they should be bipartisan reporters (no personal opinions allowed) but that is not often the case. We are a minority like any other minority (black, Spanish, women, disabled, etc...) so look at how other minorities are treated by the media. Are they anti-black? Are they anti-women? So how can we say for sure that the news media has an anti-deaf culture bias?

YES—Oh, sure...It has been going on for years and years! Always give out the wrong information about deaf cultures and they never asked deafies for interviews such as public events, activities, or witnesses mobs.

YES—I was most upset recently when local *CBS Evening News* talked about cochlear implants helping the deaf "hear" again as part of their Health Report for the evening. No one talks about the failures, the risk, and those with CI get paid INTENSIVE speech training covered by the insurance. If they gave the SAME speech training covered by insurance to all deaf, I'm sure the others **withOUT** CI will have improvement in speech with and without hearing aids.
Another night...the news showed a deaf driver taking a "test" to see if they can walk straight on the line (drinking or not). Since people don't see deaf on TV much, I feel media should project deaf in more positive light. If folks saw deaf often in positive light, then to show the deaf in negative light would be a fair game—but since media does not show deaf much in any positive light, why show in negative light and perpetuate the stereotyping?

NO—How can they be biased when they don't write about us at all or hardly ever? Television especially simply ignores people with hearing loss. If ten percent of the population has a hearing loss, how come there are no regular characters or actors who are deaf or hard-of-hearing? I have read that there are some deaf characters on soap operas but that is just a sick joke if the actors are hearing people. They think a deaf character is interesting but they don't actually want to employ a deaf actor.

Readers have asked us how many "DeafView" responses we get every month.
This month's total: 323

DeafView

READERS' VIEWPOINT

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Should Congress have the power to decide which TV programs will be closed-captioned?

❑ Yes ❑ No ❑ Not sure

Comments: _____

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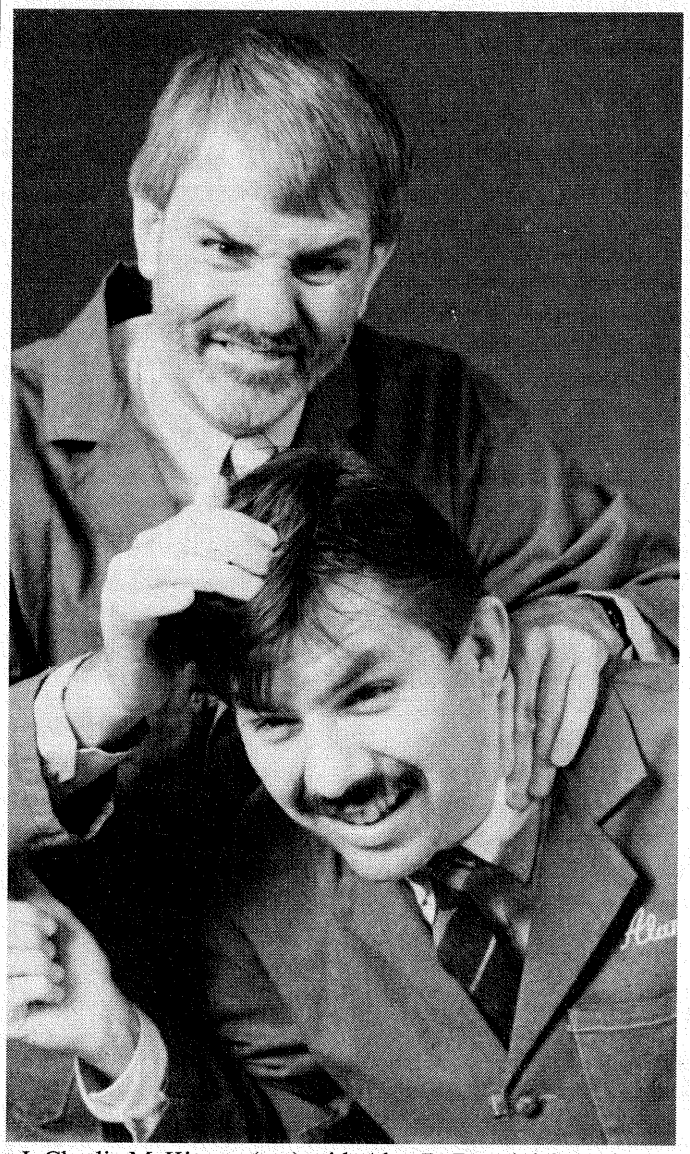

J. Charlie McKinney (top) with Alan R. Barwiolek ("Al B.") as CHALB Productions in 1991. (Photo © Richard Kelly)

IN MEMORIAM
J. Charlie McKinney
"A gem of a man"

J. Charlie McKinney, noted Deaf performer and advocate, died on Thursday, April 9, at 2:30 in the afternoon, in his home in Lexington, South Carolina, following a long illness.

He was a founding member of the New York Deaf Theatre, Ltd., in 1979 and, as its first president, guided it during its early years. He and **Alan Roy Barwiolek** ("**Al B.**") were co-creators of CHALB Productions. From 1980 to 1994, CHALB performed satirical plays and skits throughout the United States, and in France, Italy, and Japan. After living in New York City for several years, Charlie returned to his native South Carolina. He served 13 years as Executive Director of the South Carolina Association of the Deaf, Inc. (SCAD) Home Office. He resigned at the end of July 1996, soon after Al B's death in New York, and after his own health had begin to fail.

Charlie was a member of the Laurent Clerc Headstone Restoration Committee, which unveiled

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Send us anything you think is appropriate. Items should be of national, not just local, interest. Typed articles with photos preferred. Photos, etc., will be returned on request. We reserve the right to reject or edit any material.

When we need it:

Please send material by the first of the month for publication the following month, with a 10-day grace period. (Items for November 1992 publication, for example, must be sent before October 10.) The earlier, the better. We will not accept any story more than 1 month old.

Where to send it:

For regular **first-class mail**, please send to our P.O. box number: **DEAF LIFE** , c/o MSM Productions, Box 23380, Rochester, NY 14692-3380.

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the new headstones of **Laurent** and **Eliza Boardman Clerc** in Hartford's Spring Grove Cemetery on April 17, which was the second anniversary of Al B.'s death (April 17, 1996), as Committee Chair **Sue Pedersen** noted: "Now he joins AlB in Happyland—8 days short of AlB's death anniversary (2 years) on April 17, 1998 . . . our Laurent Clerc dedication day . . . to notify AlB that his mission will be accomplished this Friday." Had Charlie not died 8 days before the much-anticipated dedication day, he surely would have been there, too.

Tony Allicino, who knew him well, calls him "a gem of a man."

Instead of a funeral, Charlie desired to have a "Celebration of Life," to be held on Saturday, May 16, 2:00-3:30 p.m., followed by a reception, at the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind (SCSDB), Herbert Center, Highway 56 South, Spartanburg.

Those wishing to share a favorite experience or memory of Charlie can contact **Kathy Brown Mignerey** via mail at SCSDB, 355 Cedar Springs Road, Spartanburg, SC 29302, or by phone at ☎(864) 577-7505 (TTY/Voice).

Charlie also asked that those desiring to give memorials to contribute to any one of these:

♥ Foundation for the Multihandicapped, Blind, and Deaf of S.C., 355 Cedar Springs Road Spartanburg, SC 29302. (He served on the board of this organization, which is the fundraising arm of SCSDB, his alma mater.)

♥ South Carolina Association of the Deaf, 1735 Augusta Road West Columbia, SC 29169.

♥ United Hospice 6300 St. Andrews Road Columbia, SC 29221

Condolences can be sent to his family in care of his sister, Margaret Butler, 11 Sedgeville Drive, Greenville, SC 29615.

✏ Thanks to Tony Allicino.

A TOO-SHORT, BUT VERY BUSY LIFE

McKinney was born in Liberty, South Carolina, and graduated from the South Carolina School for the Deaf in 1960. He received his B.A. degree in History/Education from Gallaudet College in 1965, and his M.A. in Deafness Rehabilitation from New York University in 1976.

His professional experiences included:

➽ Teaching at New York State School for the Deaf at Rome (1966-1972); Converse College, Spartanburg, South Carolina (1973-1975); Spartanburg Technical College (1974-1975); LaGuardia Community College, Queens, New York (1975-1977); New York University (1979-1983); New York City Board of Education at Manhattan Children's Psychiatry Center on Wards Island (1981-1983); Spartanburg Methodist College (1983-1984).

➽ Counseling for South Carolina Department of Vocational Rehabilitation at Cedar Spring Rehabilitation Facility on SCSD campus (1972-1975); Maimonides Mental Health Clinic for the Deaf in Brooklyn, New York (1975-1976).

➽ Administration as executive director of Spectrum, Focus on Deaf Artists, Austin, Texas (1977-1979); executive director of S.C. Association of the Deaf Home Office, Spartanburg (1983-1984), and West Columbia, South Carolina (1985-1996).

➽ Theater arts: Helped organize New York City Arts Community for the Deaf (1975-1976); directing and performing with Spectrum Deaf Theatre, Austin, Texas (1977-1979). Co-founded NYDT and was its first president (1979-1983). Performed for NYDT (1980-1982). Started CHALB Productions with Al B. in August 1980. They performed, lectured, conducted workshops, etc., all over the world (1980-1996). He hosted South Carolina Educational Television's Golden Globe Bronze-winning weekly series, ***On the Other Hand***.

➽ His civic activities were too numerous to list, but the ones he considered most important were:

Helped re-activate the Rome, New York (now Mohawk) Chapter of the Gallaudet College/University Alumni Association (1968). Founded Jessamine Chapter of Gallaudet College/University Alumni Association in South Carolina (1973). Founded Cedar Spring Museum on SCSDB campus (1974). Vice President of National Association of the Deaf (1974-1976). NAD Regional Board

Member (1976-1977). Appointed by South Carolina Governor **Dick Riley** to serve on the board of the SC Protection & Advocacy System for the Handicapped, Inc. for one term (1985-1987), and served as an ax-officio Board member (1987-1996). Board Member of Foundation for the Blind, Multihandicapped and Deaf of South Carolina (1988-1996).

➽ Accomplishments with SCAD:

• Opened one of nation's few state association offices with a full-time staff on August 1, 1983. SCAD has received appropriations from the State since its opening.

• Chaired the task force at the South Carolina Department of Mental Health, which eventually hired a full-time director for Deaf/hard of hearing services.

• Was involved in developing South Carolina Department of Education's "Signs for Instruction: Reference Manual of Preferred South Carolina Signs." This led to the SCETV project, ***On the Other Hand***.

• Served as general chairperson of the 1988 NAD Convention in Charleston, which attracted over 2,000 people. Included assistance from SCSDB, SC Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, SCSD Alumni Association, and many other groups;

• Chaired the task force at the South Carolina Commission for the Blind, which now has a full-time coordinator for Deaf-Blind services;

• Helped file grievance against SC Department of Mental Health, which resulted in the Office of Civil Rights' mandate that deaf people have the right to qualified services provided by the department. "Now we have both inpatient and outpatient programs for people in South Carolina, employing more than 30 professionals in the State."

• Worked against Lisa Rogers, the audiologist who caused uproar in South Carolina in 1992; formed the Alliance for Free Choice for Parents of Deaf Children. [See **DEAF LIFE's** April 1992 cover story.]

• Allied with the deaf, blind, and parent groups to keep SCSDB independent—against the State's restructuring plan, which would have caused the loss of voice and vote on the board.

• Pushed for the Dual Party Relay legislation (1990); TTY distribution (1996); American Sign Language bill (1996); strengthening the interpreter's law (1986) and (1996), making services more comprehensive and accessible.

• Engineered the training and implementation of Language Proficiency Interview and NAD's Interpreter Assessment Program.

• Provided thousands of referrals, handled hundreds of advocacy requests, conducted several workshops for agencies, consumers and professionals, testified on behalf of deaf people before various groups, most notably the State Legislature.

➽ Athletics: Played basketball at SCSDB, Gallaudet (1960-1964) and with deaf clubs such as Washington, DC (1965-1966) and SC (1972-1975) and in the Mohawk Valley League in Upstate NY (1966-1971). Played on Gallaudet's volleyball tournament championships (1963), beating University of Maryland, Georgetown, and American University.

➽ Leisure: When he was able to take time from his busy schedule for more leisurely pastimes, he enjoyed gourmet cooking, reading, spectator sports (especially the Atlanta Braves), theater arts, and travel. He was working on a book, tentatively titled "South Carolina Deaf Heritage."

THE "BREAD OF AFFLICTION"—AND THE BREAD OF ANGER

Ten deaf immigrants from the former Soviet Union plan to sue the B. Manischewitz Company, based in Brooklyn, one of world's largest makers of Passover bread, for failing to provide sign-language interpreters, and the Bakery, Confectionery and Tobacco Workers International Union, for alleged discrimination. The announcement was made on April 1 by **Alan Rich**, a lawyer for the deaf bakers.

The civil-rights violations alleged in the lawsuit range from life-threatening safety hazards to being shut out of contract negotiations because both Manischewitz and the labor union have failed to provide sign-language interpreters.

A spokesman for Manischewitz said the lawsuit was "without merit." Representatives of the union were not immediately available for comment.

The ten deaf bakers will seek damages of $36 million, according to the lawsuit, filed Thursday, April 9, in Brooklyn federal court—one day before Passover began, celebrated by millions of Jews around the world.

According to the complaint: "There are no flashing fire alarms which would enable deaf workers to be warned of a fire, like their hearing counterparts are warned by fire alarms that make sound."

The bakers, all Russian immigrants who fled from the former Soviet Union to the United States over the years, have worked for Manischewitz for up to 19 years. Manischewitz is a major manufacturer of the machine-made variety of matzo, known to Jews as "the bread of affliction"—unleavened bread in the form of large wafers eaten by Jews during the Passover holiday to commemorate their deliverance from slavery in Egypt and freedom to serve God. Matzo is the chief symbol and most important food of Passover.

Alan Rich, the lawyer representing the deaf bakers, said that a factory employing the deaf must have fire alarms that flash as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The lawsuit alleges that in 1994, during a "major fire with a blackout . . . all the hearing people got out safely," but that one worker had to run back to inform a deaf baker of the fire and get him out of the building.

"We believe this lawsuit is entirely without merit," Manischewitz spokesman **Jim Badenhausen** said. "We are strongly committed to meeting the needs of our hearing-impaired employees and will continue working hard to resolve any concerns they may have."

✏ Adapted from a Reuters release, "Deaf Russian migrants sue U.S. matzo baker," by **Jeanne King**, April 1, 1998, carried on NJ-L News. ➤

SHOW US THE MONEY!

adapted from a report by **Peter Aseltine**
The Times (Trenton) March 26, 1998

Some used sign language, while others struggled to shout the words. But more than 200 students from the Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf got their message across loud and clear yesterday [March 25] in front of the State House Annex: "We want our $700,000." The crowd—consisting of most of MKSD's roughly 250 students, and parents and teachers—chanted in unison to protest the state's proposed budget.

The budget would keep aid to MKSD at last year's level—$2,547,000—but falls $700,000 short of the figure recommended in a 5-year strategic plan developed by MKSD and the state Department of Education. The shortfall will mean cuts in programs and will make it impossible to hire staff and purchase new computers and classroom materials that were part of the plan to strengthen the school, said **Janet Dickinson**, the MKSD's director of community affairs. State aid for the current year is $677,000 short of the plan.

"I don't understand why they are cutting our budget," said **Glenn Alleman**, an 18-year-old student from Glassboro, signing the words to an interpreter. "I'm really very upset about it. We don't have the software we need for the computer program. We have the computers, but they don't work well. We need upgraded computers so we can have E-mail and access to the Internet."

Peter Peretzman, a spokesman for the state Department of Education, said the figures in the plan were merely projections and should never have been considered guaranteed funds. "Nobody does a 5-year budget," he said.

Peretzman said the school is in good shape financially. Enrollment rose by 25 students in the past two years and the school won a number of grants. A new 10-year financial plan is being worked out with administrators at MKSD.

Governor **Christie Whitman** was questioned about the aid by a Katzenbach student during a meeting with students from several schools. She said state-education officials are working "very closely" with the school to create the 10-year plan. "We sent them back to the parents and students at the school . . . to come up with a plan that is satisfactory to all," she said. "The funding has remained stable over the past two years and there is an increase in funding for capital needs."

Later, **Kim Arrigo**, MKSD's PTA president, testified in sign language before the joint Senate and Assembly budget committee, urging legislators to stick to the strategic plan, which calls for $3,248,000 in state aid for 1999. Arrigo, a teacher whose two children represent the third generation in her family to attend MKSD, said parents and staff fear the state eventually plans to cut all funding to MKSD, the state's only residential school for the deaf. The state threatened to cut all aid in 1994 until MKSD successfully appealed to the Joint Budget Committee.

Arrigo said the school needs the state aid to compete with less expensive programs that mainstream deaf students within school districts. A major cut in aid would force MKSD to raise its tuition to a level that might be rejected by the districts now sending students. "We must protect the financial interest of our districts and ensure that (the school) remains an affordable placement option for New Jersey's deaf children," she said.

At one point, Arrigo asked committee members to copy her hand gestures. After they politely complied, she explained they were saying, "Follow the plan."

"I did have the experience of going to a mainstream program and it didn't help very much," said Alleman. "When I came back [to Katzenbach], I got so much more out of it because I feel comfortable with people who are like me."

Peretzman said the 5-year plan for the school was intended to "begin them on a process of achieving financial independence." He said the 10-year plan recognizes it may take longer. "You can't lose sight of the fact that they're doing well financially and doing well educationally," he said. "They are really a school in pretty good shape."

NJ-L News Note: **Philip Moos**, President of the New Jersey Association of the Deaf, was shown on the front page, leading

the rally with a $10 bill in one hand and signing "We want the money!"

✏ Adapted from Peter Aseltine's report ("Deaf students object to budget plan/200 from Marie Latzenbach School rally at State House") in **The Times** (Trenton, New Jersey), March 26, 1998, carried on NJ-L News. ➤

NTID GEARS UP FOR 30TH

Deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing alumni, faculty, staff, and friends will gather to commemorate NTID's 30th anniversary, July 15-19, on the RIT campus in Rochester, New York.*

"Then and Now . . . Renewing Our Memories" the theme of NTID's alumni reunion, celebrates 30 years of NTID providing technical education to more than 8,000 persons. 1,500 graduates, some from as far away as California, are expected to attend the 3-day event. NTID Alumni Reunion festivities include opening ceremonies, Alumni Association activities, exhibits, workshops, entertainment, and an awards ceremony.

"NTID alumni as a whole, unlike alumni from large mainstream universities, are particularly close because of the sign language and Deaf culture that binds us together," says **Dave Staehle** ('78) administrator of NTID's Office of Alumni Relations. "Our alumni have fond memories of their experiences at RIT, and they look forward to returning to campus to renew old friendships."

➳ For further information, contact NTID Alumni Reunion '98 Headquarters at RIT, Alumni Relations Office, Lyndon Baines Johnson Building, 52 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, New York, 14623-5604. ☎(716) 475-6906 (voice); ☎(716) 475-6408 (TTY); ❒(716) 475-5623 (FAX); ❖dwsalum@rit.edu (E-mail). Look for reunion information on the World Wide Web at ✱http://www.rit.edu/~460www/

*Just for the record, NTID's full name is the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, and it's one of 7 colleges of Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York.

"PLANTING THE SEED"

NTID's Distinguished Alumni Award is presented annually to outstanding deaf or hard-of-hearing alumni who have graduated from NTID or another college of RIT, are successful and highly commendable in their chosen field of study or career, are actively involved with and contribute to the betterment of the Deaf community, and promote spirit among NTID alumni. NTID's Office of Alumni Relations recently announced this year's recipient: **Colleen D. Daviton**.

Daviton, a native of the San Francisco Bay area who now lives in Rochester, is the oldest of four deaf siblings of deaf parents with three generations of deafness in her family. She attended the California School for the Deaf at Berkeley (now Fremont) and entered NTID in 1973. She received her Associate of Applied Science degree in Medical Laboratory Technology in 1977.

Colleen Daviton

After a brief stint as sign-language researcher at University of Nevada, Reno, where she worked with chimpanzees and their ability to learn sign language, Daviton returned to RIT to continue her college education. In 1983 she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from RIT's College of Science.

Since 1983, she has been clinical technologist for the University of Rochester Medical Center, Strong Memorial Hospital, where she performs routine histological preparations with surgical tissues and assists pathologists in trimming specimens, preparation of special stains, autopsy sectioning, and research projects.

She is also part-time instructor of ASL and Deaf Culture to undergraduate students at UR. In 1992 and 1993, she was adjunct faculty in NTID's Applied Science/Allied Health program, where she revised curriculum, prepared materials for a histology course, and taught laboratory techniques. She has received accreditation in histotechnology from the American Society of Clinical Pathology, and is a Certified Deaf Interpreter in training. She was actively involved in the NTID Alumni Chapter of Rochester as vice president from 1983-1985 and first female president from 1985-1987.

In 1997, Daviton was named Deaf Woman of the Year by Deaf Women of Rochester (DWR), an affiliated group of Deaf Women United, Inc. (DWU). She is currently Vice President of DWR and a board member of DWU. She chaired DWU's national conference, held in Rochester last summer.

"NTID and RIT contributed to my success and development in many ways, like a seed being planted," says Daviton. "The faculty and staff taught me the essential tools and gave me the guidance and direction to prepare me for the working world."

Of the Distinguished Alumni Award, she says: "I never thought that the excellent educational and social opportunities NTID and RIT provided me, plus my added energy, effort, and time would lead to such an award. I am truly honored and grateful."

Recently, she has taken up the cause of women's health issues and has given presentations to deaf women's groups across the country on the topics of women's healthcare, gynecology, and breast diseases.

"Today's students, deaf and hard-of-hearing included, need

to know that it takes more than knowing the books to succeed," she says. "By getting involved with college life activities and learning how to work with other people, I nurtured the seed that was planted in me at NTID 25 years ago."

Daviton received her award at RIT's Alumni Awards Banquet on May 2, at Rochester's Oak Hill Country Club. She will also be recognized at an awards luncheon on Friday, July 17, in conjunction with NTID's 30th anniversary alumni reunion on the RIT campus.

MISS DEAF AMERICA ONLINE!

Meghan Rainone is participating in a worldwide cyber-chat, sponsored by NTID and DEAFCHAT. Tune in!

NTID and MSM Productions, Ltd.'s www.DEAFCHAT.com are offering two live computer-chat programs to be hosted by **Meghan Rainone**, the current Miss Deaf America. Rainone's chats will be held online Wednesday, May 6, from 2-4 p.m. and 8-10 p.m., Eastern Time, at ✷www.DEAFCHAT.com and ✷www.rit.edu/NTID. The chat programs are free and open to anyone with Internet access. The event marks the first time that a major technical college for deaf and hard-of-hearing students and a leading independent Deaf multimedia publisher, have joined forces to present a series of interactive chat sessions over the Internet featuring a prominent personality representing the U.S. Deaf community.

"I am very excited about this," said Rainone, who concludes her 2-year reign as Miss Deaf America this summer. "It's great that I can communicate the ideals of Miss Deaf America to so many people over the Internet."

DEAFCHAT will reserve two chat rooms, Deaf Events and NTID, for these programs. A special NTID questions-and-answers room will also be set up to accommodate additional traffic.

➳ (For details on DEAFCHAT, see following item.)

Program rules:

1. No private chats with Miss Deaf America are permitted. This is to ensure that everyone has equal access to the dialogue.

2. This program will be monitored. The standard chatroom rules governing courtesy, fairness (taking turns), and acceptable language will be applied. All visitors are encouraged to read the "Chatroom Rules" before entering DEAFCHAT. These rules are posted on the DEAFCHAT homepage.

3. Unacceptable chatroom behavior includes abusive or threatening statements ("flaming"), profanity, vulgar jokes, misuse of the chatroom for self-promotion, and anything else that interferes with the enjoyment of the chatroom by other visitors.

4. Anyone who engages in unacceptable chatroom behavior will be immediately banned. They will not be able to re-enter the program .

Meghan Rainone, Miss Deaf America 1996-1998

Meghan Rainone was born deaf in Marlton, New Jersey, a small town near Philadelphia. (Her older sister Becky is also deaf.) She attended classes with interpreting support at Jaggard Elementary School and Cherokee High School, both in Marlton. She was recognized by the National Honor Society and the Mathematics Honor Society.

She is currently a senior at RIT, majoring in Criminal Justice, and is a member of Alpha Sigma Theta sorority. She is also a member of RIT's Institute Appeals Board, which reviews various appeals placed before it by students to determine whether their cases have been handled fairly. After graduating this May from RIT, Rainone hopes to continue her studies at law school.

As Miss Deaf America, she is an ambassador of goodwill for the NAD, the oldest and largest organization representing people with disabilities in the United States. During her 2-year reign as Miss Deaf America, she has traveled the country representing the NAD and the Deaf community and making presentations at schools and public events as a source of inspiration.

DEAFCHAT.COM NOW OPEN!

MSM Productions, Ltd., recently launched **www.deafchat.com** as one of the first up-and-running features of its new Website, www.DEAF.com. It contains 27 chatrooms, each with a specific focus. There are chatrooms for men and women only, teenagers, visitors from various regions of the United States and abroad (Canada, Asia, Europe, Africa, Australia), and anyone associated with or curious about the "Big Three"—CSUN, NTID, and Gallaudet University. The "General Room" is the most popular, though.

New chatrooms include the "Dummy" Hoy Discussion Room (focusing on the campaign to get the first deaf major-leaguer inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame) and the ASLTA Room, where members of the American Sign Language Teachers Association can meet to discuss issues and strategies. Other specialized chatrooms will be added as DEAFCHAT.com expands. If you're interested in having a chatroom for your interest group or nonprofit organization, please contact us.

Special programs will be available Monday through Thursday, 9-10 p.m. (Eastern Time). Techno-Chat (focusing on the Internet and advanced telecommunications) is on

Tuesday evening; Deaf/Hearing Parents' Night on Wednesday evening.

Chatrooms enable visitors from around the nation and world to communicate with each other in real time, discuss topics of interest (education of the deaf, ASL, crab theory, science and culture, etc.), make new friends and find old ones, or just . . . chat. DEAFCHAT.com provides an opportunity for deaf people to visit and network with each other. Likewise, it gives hearing people an opportunity to meet deaf people without worrying about the barriers of spoken/signed communication.

DEAFCHAT.com is notably easy to use for anyone who has a Java-enabled browser. It is supported by Netscape 3.0 and above, or Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 and above. (Netscape and Microsoft IE 4.0. are highly recommended.) No plug-ins or downloading are needed. Just click to enter the chatroom of your choice. And there you are.

Platform information:

•**For Macintosh**: Netscape Navigator 3.x or 4.x; Internet Explorer 3.x. (Macintosh 68K requires Netscape 3.4 and no later version.)

•**For Windows 95 and NT**: Netscape Navigator 3.x or 4.x; Internet Explorer 3.x.

All DEAFCHAT.com chatrooms are free of charge and open 24 hours a day. All are monitored, operating within standard rules of conduct and courtesy, except the "Freedom Room," which offers a no-holds-barred forum for the exchange of views. **Matthew S. Moore**, President of MSM Productions, Ltd., says, "We welcome **Diane M. White**, a chatroom veteran, as Chief Monitor of DEAFCHAT.com. I will be adding more monitors as the number of visitors increases. This will ensure that DEAFCHAT.com will be enjoyable experience for all."

Shortly after its launch at the end of February, DEAFCHAT.com received its first visitors. Within its first two weeks of operation, there were visitors from Japan, Canada, England, Australia, Finland, Israel, and New Zealand. Word's been spreading quickly, and the number of visitors is multiplying. Says Moore: "Visitors have told me how much they enjoy it, how easy it is to use, and how nice it looks. They're really having fun, and telling their friends about, too."

So . . . if you're having trouble sleeping at night, feeling lonesome or bored with TV reruns and videos, want to network, need support or advice, are eager to participate in a freewheeling discussion about a hot topic, or just simply feel like having a good chat, give DEAFCHAT.com a try.

TEACHING NATIVES & NOVICES: WMC'S NEW ASL PROGRAM

Western Maryland College's Deaf Education program is offering its newest degree, the ASL Specialist Program, to begin this summer. This program, the first of its kind, will prepare graduates to serve two distinct populations: deaf students whose first language is ASL, and deaf and hearing students who are learning ASL as a second language.

The program is approved by the Council on Education of the Deaf (CED) and the Maryland State Department of Education. Upon completion, graduates will have earned a Master of Science degree (Deaf Education: ASL Specialty) and will be eligible for CED and state certification in Deaf Education.

An expansion of the existing Deaf Education program, the ASL Specialist Program accepts full- and part-time students who enroll in classes during the academic year and summer. Students who work full-time throughout the academic year may choose the "Summers-only" program. Prerequisite and Deaf Education courses will be offered during the fall and spring semesters and every summer. After prerequisites are met, students can complete the program in 3-4 semesters or 3-4 summers of full-time study, excluding the internship.

➳ To obtain an information packet, contact **Sheila Deane** at ☎(410) 857-2506 (TTY/Voice) or ❖sdeane@wmdc.edu. For more information, contact **Rachel Stone**, assistant coordinator of the ASL Specialist Program, at ❖rstone@wmdc.edu.

Background: Western Maryland College's Deaf Education program began in 1967 as a joint effort between the Maryland School for the Deaf and WMC to supply certified teachers to the state of Maryland. Viewing deaf students from a bilingual and bicultural perspective, the program prepares professionally outstanding teachers who have a respect for the language and culture of Deaf people to support literacy development and academic achievement for deaf students. Graduates are prepared to teach at either the elementary or secondary level and are employed throughout the United States and Canada.

NEW NAME, BROADER MISSION

Northwestern Connecticut Community-Technical College's *Career Education for the Deaf* has been renamed *Collegiate Education for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons* (CEDHH). NCCC President **R. Eileen Baccus** recently made the announcement, which was officially endorsed effective February 1.

The rationale for this name change is twofold: 1) to clarify the identity of the population NCCC serves, which is students who are either deaf or hard-of-hearing, and 2) to expand statewide services and programs to satisfy the postsecondary educational needs of Deaf/HH students.

The mission of CEDHH is to assure that persons who are deaf and hard-of-hearing have access to high-quality educational equity and excellence with appropriate comprehensive support services at any Connecticut public postsecondary education program. In addition, CEDHH ensures a core collegiate education for Deaf/HH students, and will serve as a

statewide resource center providing information, training, consultation services, and technical assistance to postsecondary programs throughout Connecticut.

CEDHH's goal is to raise the knowledge, skills, and career opportunities of Deaf/HH persons through successful completion of academic programs at institutions of higher education throughout Connecticut.

Background: Northwestern Connecticut Community-Technical College has provided a fully accessible educational environment with quality comprehensive support services to Deaf/HH since 1974. NCCC and CEDHH look forward to continuing and enhancing this heritage through collaborations.

For further information, contact **Mark Myers**, CEDHH Director, at ☎(860) 738-6382 (TTY/Voice) or ❖nw_myers@commnet.edu (E-mail).

A PROMISE KEPT

On April 17, new headstones for **Laurent** and **Eliza Boardman Clerc** were formally dedicated at Spring Grove Cemetery in Hartford, Connecticut. The ceremony was sponsored by the NAD and American School for the Deaf.

The Laurent Clerc Headstone Restoration Committee was established by a mandate passed at the 1994 Biennial NAD Convention in Knoxville, Tennessee. The late Alan R. Barwiolek (Al B.), committee founder, originally spearheaded this project. Committee members include **Sue V. Pedersen**, chair; **Jim Pedersen**, **Tony Allicino**, **David Halberg**, **Linda Lamitola**, **Winfield McChord, Jr.**, and **Patrick Seamans**. J. Charlie McKinney, who died 8 days before the dedication, was also a committee member. The goals of the committee were to:

1. Preserve the original Clerc headstones;
2. Replace the headstones with exact copies made of granite;
3. Increase awareness of the important contributions Laurent Clerc made to establish education programs for deaf Americans; and
4. Celebrate Laurent Clerc Day annually in schools and communities across America.

After the new headstones were unveiled and formally dedicated, a luncheon was held at the Connecticut Historical Society, followed by a tour of Hartford and ASD. That evening, participants enjoyed a buffet-banquet dinner with keynote speaker **Jack R. Gannon**. Representatives of the NAD Board of Directors and Headquarters staff were there, too.

Who was Laurent Clerc?

He was a deaf French teacher who came from Paris to the United States to co-found the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford, Connecticut in 1817. (It was originally known as the "Hartford Asylum," "American Asylum," or "Old Hartford.") Clerc (1785-1869) was the first deaf teacher and principal in the United States. Through his leadership and inspiration, the American deaf community has made much progress and many accomplishments.

ASD was not the first attempted school for the deaf in the U.S., but it was the first successful one. Thanks to the absolute dedication and skill of Gallaudet and Clerc, the support of the Hartford community and the U.S. Congress, the school thrived, becoming a model for the dozens of schools for the deaf founded elsewhere in the nation.

In 1818, Clerc became the first deaf person to address Congress, and received a thunderous standing ovation. (Deaf applause hadn't yet been invented!) Later, in 1864, he gave an address at the opening of National Deaf-Mute College—now Gallaudet University.

Clerc's marriage in 1818 to his former student Eliza Crocker Boardman was the first recorded marriage of a deaf couple in the United States. She was a bright, lively, and charming young woman. It's said that she initially took the lead in their courtship, fearing that he would return to Paris after his first three years at Old Hartford were over, and that she'd lose him forever. Theirs was an exceptionally happy marriage. They raised four children, and several of their descendants were involved with the Deaf community.

MUTUAL GRATITUDE

Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts was honored as the American School for the Deaf's 1998 Leadership Awardee at a luncheon at ASD on April 1. At that time, the Foundation also presented ASD with a grant of $50,000 for its current "Access" campaign.

"RMHC is dedicated to supporting educational initiatives like the Access program," said **Kim Hennig**, McDonald's Regional Marketing Manager and RMHC Board Member. "We realize the importance of technology in a child's educational development."

To date, RMHC of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts has awarded $2 million to more that 100 nonprofit organizations, benefiting thousands of area children and their families. RMHC also supports the Ronald McDonald Houses in Springfield and New Haven, a "home-away-from-home" for the families of seriously-ill children seeking medical care at nearby hospitals. RMHC receives support from individual donors who drop change in McDonald's canisters and participate in other fundraisers, and from contributions by corporations, customers, friends, and local McDonald owner/operators committed to the communities where they do business.

ASD's Leadership Award is conferred annually on one or more persons or organizations who have demonstrated outstanding, committed leadership in support of the school. Past recipients include Connecticut corporations, charitable foundations, citizens, and volunteers.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and

Western Massachusetts has been a leading supporter of programs at ASD in the 1990s. This latest grant, the third in the last 6 years, has brought the total gifts from RMHC to over $125,000. On two such occasions, the national chapter of RMHC has provided matching funds to the grant made by the local chapter. Past grants have been designated for the acquisition of specialized audiological equipment for Lower School children and for materials for the Parent Learning Center and Early Childhood Program.

The current gift for "Access" is designated for upgrading educational technology throughout the school at all grade levels. The Access campaign's goal is $1.5 million, 70% of which has been achieved. "The quality of our programs relies to a great extent upon the generosity of the people, companies and charitable foundations in our service area," said Winfield McChord, Jr., Executive Director of ASD. "And Ronald McDonald House Charities has demonstrated outstanding leadership and generosity in this regard."

POSITIVE IMPACT

Rochester School for the Deaf's **Judy Cannioto** received at the Ted Kurtz Teacher Achievement Award at the annual conference of the New York State Educators of the Emotionally Disturbed, held March 14 at the Thruway Marriott. The annual award honors a special educator who has made significant contributions and shown commitment to persons with disabilities.

Cannioto, a resident of Greece (a Rochester suburb), teaches students in the Residential Treatment Facility (RTF), a joint program of RSD and Hillside Children's Center, a major social-service agency in Rochester. Hillside provides the mental-health and residential portions of the program, and RSD provides education. The RSD-RTF program serves emotionally-disturbed deaf students from throughout New York State.

Cannioto opened the program in 1984 as the program's first teacher and initiated teaching protocols still in use today.

"Judy's nurturing and caring is making a major impact in the lives of students in this program," said **Dawn Larson**, RTF Supervisor. "Her work at RSD exemplifies the commitment of a model educator."

Cannioto, a graduate of Greece-Olympia High School and Nazareth College, volunteered at RSD before attending the University of Northern Colorado, where she earned a Master's degree. In 1980, she accepted a teaching position at a state hospital in Denver, where she began working with mentally-ill deaf children and adults.

Even though she enjoyed Colorado, she longed to return to Rochester and her family here. Following 4 years in the RTF program, she became the first educational evaluator at RSD for 6 years before returning to her first love of teaching emotionally-disturbed deaf students.

"I just enjoy working with deaf children who have emotional needs," Cannioto said. "I'm thankful for the award because it indicates that these special kids and the program are an essential part of the RSD program. The honor, however, should be shared with the entire staff who together impacts on the lives of these children."

When not teaching, Cannioto reads and also writes children's books that she hopes will be published.

One of her graduates from 12 years ago recently ran into an RSD consultant and asked about Cannioto, saying that she was "the best teacher of my life." She says, "I really appreciate the achievement award, but nothing can replace the tribute from that student."

"THERE'S ALWAYS A WAY TO FIND AN ANSWER"

Does certain music affect how beans grow? How much power does it take to lift a rocket? Do mice respond to symbols? What kinds of inks are used in pens? These questions and more are the basis for science projects displayed by Upper School students at the Clarke School's Science Fair on April 14 and 15. More than 100 area schoolchildren from the Smith College Campus School, Smith Vocational High School, and the Jackson Street School, were expected to attend the event.

Science Teachers **Bob Storm** and **Leslie Niquette** know that the Science Fair helps students explore the scientific process and become better thinkers. Each student must develop an original question, a hypothesis, procedures, results, and conclusions. Students choose their own topics based on their interests. Projects range from what kind of milk and food cats prefer to how much tar and nicotine is in different brands of cigarettes. Students demonstrated their tar-and-nicotine experiment with a vacuum cleaner that "smoked" the cigarette.

The projects were evaluated by more than 20 judges, consisting of Clarke staff and Smith College faculty. Prizes were awarded for first, second, and third place, and for honorable mention.

Said Storm, "Science is a process, a way of thinking. The Science Fair helps students to organize their thinking and to problem-solve. It gives the students skills that are transferable to other subjects, but most importantly to life."

Niquette said she encourages the students to ask many questions regarding their topics. "That way, they will learn that there is always a way to find an answer to a question. My hope is that it helps the students develop their curiosity."

UPCOMING CONFERENCES, CONVENTIONS, WORKSHOPS, & FESTIVALS

A.G.B.A.D. IN LITTLE ROCK

Teachers of the deaf, audiologists, speech pathologists, parents of deaf children, deaf teens, and deaf adults are invited to attend the 1998 International Convention of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf in Little Rock, Arkansas, from June 29 to July 3. The convention Website is linked from ✷http://www.agbell.org. Or contact Dr. **J. Tilak Ratnanather** at ❖tilak@welchlink.welch.jhu.edu.

N.B.D.A. IN INDY

The National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA) Conference is holding its 16th Annual Conference at the Westin Hotel in downtown Indianapolis, the 12th-largest city in the United States, Monday, August 10, to Sunday, August 16. Approximately 600 people are expected to attend. The conference is being hosted by the Indianapolis Black Deaf Advocates (IBDA). It will feature workshops, rap sessions, tours, exhibits, and guest speakers from all over the country, and also includes a Youth Empowerment Summit (Y.E.S.) for Black Deaf youth (ages 13-17) at the Indiana School for the Deaf.

Conference theme is "The Black Deaf Community: Building Collaborative Partnerships." Focus is on how members of the Black Deaf community are working together as a group and seeking partnerships outside its community. Presentations will focus on such topics as: hearing-deaf collaborations; history of the education of Black deaf; and the Black church and Black deaf members.

One of the scheduled presenters is **Laurene Gallimore**, Coordinator of the Teacher Preparation Deaf Education program at Western Oregon University in Monmouth, Oregon. She is a native Hoosier, an award-winning expert in the Bilingual-Bicultural movement, and a dynamic presenter. Her workshop will be interactive to include both deaf and hearing attendees.

Entertainment will be on Thursday night, August 13. The Miss Black Deaf Pageant will take place Friday, August 14, and the Award Banquet will be held on Saturday, August 15. Registration is mandatory for all events.

NBDA's current officers are: President **Albert Couthen** of Laurel, Maryland; Vice President **Thomas Samuels** of Brooklyn, New York; Treasurer **Walter Lewis, Jr.** of Nashville, Tennessee, and Secretary **Gailya Goins** of Norristown, PA.

Donald Tinsley says, "As local chairman of the 1998 National Black Deaf Advocates Conference, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the home of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. We are excited to have the opportunity to plan this conference with you and are working to provide outstanding presenters, and we believe our guests will be surprised to see the many great things in Indianapolis."

For additional Information, please contact Donald Tinsley at ☎(317) 233-5009 (TTY) or ❖ICBDA@aol.com, or **Deka Kloepfer** at ☎(317) 232-1143 (TTY/Voice).

BRIEFLY NOTED

➨ The Learning Center for Deaf Children is hosting a tribute to **Marie Jean Philip** on Friday, May 15, from 2:00-7:00 p.m. ☎(508) 879-8792 (TTY/Voice); ❒(508) 875-3355 (FAX: attn.: MP Tribute); ❖MP_tribute@tlcdeaf.org, ✷http://www.tiac.net/users/tlc/mp

The Learning Center for Deaf Children, 848 Central Street, Framingham, MA 01701

➨ The "47" Alumni Association of the Deaf, Inc. will celebrate the 90th anniversary of J.H.S. 47 School for the Deaf, starting Thursday, June 11. Contact the "47" Alumni Association of the Deaf, Inc., J.H.S. 47 School for the Deaf, 225 East 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010; ❒(212) 685-9614 (FAX).

➨ Gallaudet University is hosting a one-day symposium, *Forensic Mental Health Services: Deaf People in the Criminal Justice System*, on June 1, at the GUKCC. ☎(202) 651-6060 (TTY/Voice), ❒(202) 651-6074 (FAX).

➨ The University of Utah School on Alcoholism and other Drug Dependencies is offering a specialized session focusing on substance-abuse issues within the Deaf and hard-of-hearing communities, June 14-19. Contact The Minnesota Chemical Dependency Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals at ☎1-800-282-3323 (TTY/Voice).

➨ *Deaf People in Hitler's Europe (1933-1945)* will be held June 21-24 at the GUKCC. Contact: Professors **John Schuchman** and **Donna Ryan** of Gallaudet's History and Government Department at ☎(202) 651-5474 (TTY/Voice, ❒(202) 651-5652 (FAX); ❖jsschuchman@gallua.gallaudet.edu or ❖dfryan@gallua.gallaudet.edu.

➨ The *National NAD Conference* will be held July 7-11 in San Antonio, Texas. Theme: "Branding Our Future: Leading, Not Lassoed." ❖NADHQ@juno.com.

➨ The Pennsylvania Society for Advancement of the Deaf will holds its convention July 23-26, at Pocono Manor Inn, Pocono Manor. Contact **Carl Frels**, ☎(717) 342-1170 (TTY), ❖cfrels@email.msn.com (E-mail).

➨ California School for the Deaf, Fremont will host the Junior National Association of the Deaf's 16th Biennial National Convention from July 24 to 29. Theme: "Preparing for the 21st Century—Deaf Youth's Perspective." Sponsors wanted. Contact: **Diana Herron Rhodes** at ☎(510) 794-3708 (TTY), ❒(510) 794-9250 (FAX), or ❖diana@csdf.cde.ca.gov (E-mail) or write to her at CSDF, Outreach Division, 39350 Gallaudet Drive, Fremont, CA 94538.

➨ The fifth annual *Intertribal Deaf Council of North America* will be held near Duck Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada, from August 11 to 14. Contact **Vernon Eyaphpaise**, P. O. Box 265, Duck Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada S0K-1J0, ☎(306) 467-2204 (TTY/Voice), ❒(306) 467-4407 (FAX).

➨ The *1998 National Jewish Deaf Congress Convention* (22nd Biennial Convention), will be held August 11-15, at Universal City, California. Host: Temple Beth Solomon of the Deaf. Contact: Convention Chair **Fred Lovitch**, ☎(818) 896-6721 (TTY), ☎(818) 899-2202 (Voice), ❐(818) 899-2123 (FAX), ❖flovitch@aol.com.

➨ Signs of Sobriety, Inc., will host a 4-Day "SoberCamp for Deaf Adults in Recovery and their Families" at Camp Kirby in Upper Black Eddy, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, from August 24 to 27. Presenters wanted. Signs of Sobriety, Inc., 865 Lower Ferry Road, Suite B9, Ewing, NJ 08628. Or call ☎(609) 882-7177 (TTY); ☎❐(609) 882-7677 (Voice/FAX); ❖SOSNJ@juno.com (E-mail).

➨ The Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness will hold its 28th Annual Conference, *Expanding Horizons: A Peak into the 21st Century*, at the Radisson Hotel in Asheville, North Carolina, November 1-4. Contact: **Terry Kemp**, NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, P.O. Box 26053, Raleigh, N.C. 27611 or call ☎(919) 733-5924 (TTY) or ☎(919) 733-3364 (Voice).

➨ The *Sixth International Conference on Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research* (TISLR 98) will be held November 12-15. Contact: **Mike Kemp**, Department Chair, TISLR 98 Abstracts, Department of ASL, Linguistics, and Interpretation, Gallaudet University, 800 Florida Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002 (USA). Accepted papers must be submitted by October 1. Communications about the conference, including registration, lodging, and program information, are being handled via the conference Website: ✱http://www.gallaudet.edu/~aslweb/tislr98/

Questions concerning the program can be E-mailed to ❖info_tislr@gallua.gallaudet.edu.

➨ *The First International Conference on Deaf Education & Technology: "Tools for the 21st Century*," will be held November 17-22, in conjunction with Deaf Awareness Week, in Bermuda. Contact: **Jennifer Jeffers-Grant**, Chair, 1st International Conference on Deafness, P.O. Box 1749, Hamilton HM GX, Bermuda; ☎❐(441) 238-8116 (TTY/FAX); ❖jeffers@ibl.bm.

➨ The 28th Quadrennial Convention of the National Fraternal Society of the Deaf will be held at Buena Vista Palace at Walt Disney Village World. near Orlando, Florida, July 22-24, 1999. Contacts: Convention Chair **Doris Berman**, ☎(954) 720-5619 (TTY) or ❐(954) 721-8852 (FAX); **Manny Golden**, ☎(904) 797-3817 (TTY) or ❐(904) 794-1679 (FAX).

THE SPIRIT & THE FUN

The Deaf Apostolate of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is sponsoring two retreats for Deaf people, and a camp.

A Deaf Men's Retreat will be held at San Alphonso Retreat House in Long Branch, New Jersey on May 29, 30 and 31. "This is a time to relax and listen to the Lord speak to your heart, in a beautiful place of quiet, beauty, and peace." ➨ For more information or to make a reservation contact **Larry Hampel** at ☎(610) 604-0519 (TTY) or Father **Russo** ☎(215) 423-9547 (TTY/Voice).

A retreat day will be held on Saturday, October 17, at Immaculata Spirituality Center (Immaculata, Pennsylvania). The theme is *Signs of our Faith: The Holy Spirit*. This is a great way for members of the Deaf Community to prepare for the coming millennium. The guest presenter will be Rev. **Michael B. Medas** from the Deaf Apostolate of Boston. ➨ Contact Sister **Kathleen Schipani** at ☎(215) 338-9373 (TTY/Voice) or ❐(215) 332-6811 (FAX) to register.

Camp Overbrook, IN SIGN 5, is a 2-week religious-education camp for deaf children (ages 6-14). It will be held from July 13-24, on the grounds of St. Charles Seminary on City Line Avenue. Daily activities include Bible stories, drama, art/crafts, swimming, and sports. During this summer's session, performers from NYDT's "Storysign" will direct storytelling workshops for three days and give a special performance for the campers. (See below.) Fee: $50. The camp runs on contributions from local foundations and businesses. (Contributions are always welcome.) For a registration form, contact Sister Kathleen Schipani at the above numbers. The Deaf Apostolate's address is 6740 Roosevelt Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19149.

"StorySign" (a Creative Access/Camp Overbrook: IN SIGN 5 collaboration), performed in ASL and voiced English, brings the magic of stories, poems and hands-on improyvisation to all people, of all ages. Performance date: Friday, July 17, 7:00 p.m. Place: St. Charles Seminary Grounds, City Line Avenue and Wynnewood Road. Tickets: Suggested donation: $5 for adults. $3 for children.

CREATIVE ACCESS: UPDATE

Philadelphia Festival of World Cinema and Creative Access are co-sponsoring another "Lunch and a Movie" event, including a reception for **Howie Seago**, on Sunday, May 3, 12-6:30 p.m. The movie is ***Jenseits der Stille*** (***Beyond Silence***), nominated for an Oscar as Best Foreign Film. It will be shown in its original German and sign language, with English subtitles.

Jenseits der Stille is about a hearing girl with musical talent, whose parents are Deaf. It explores Deaf/hearing family and parent-and-child relationships. Seago, a noted Deaf actor, appears in the role of the father.

Lunch: in Philadelphia (restaurant TBA), 12:00 to 3:30 p.m. Movie: Gershman "Y," Broad and Pine Streets, 4:00 p.m.

Tickets are $55, and can be reserved via E-mail. Seating is limited to first 150 people. Tax-deductible contributions are welcome. These will obtain tickets for persons who would otherwise be unable to attend. ➨ Contact: Creative Access, 108 Market St., 2nd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19106. ❖CrAccess@aol.com.

GET ONLINE!

The Deaf-Hearing Communication Centre, Inc. (DHCC) and the Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf (PSAD), a statewide organization of Deaf consumers, are offering a computer-training program exclusively for Deaf people, taught by Deaf instructors. Classes started the week of March 23 at Immaculata College (located between Exton and Paoli). DHCC/PSAD expect to offer similar programs to hard-of-hearing people. Interpreters are encouraged to attend these classes. Interested in attending future classes? Contact DHCC for up-to-date listings.

Background: DHCC started as a concern of a deaf person, which was shared with the President of the Women's Club of Springfield. The two chose to launch a 2-year community project called "Concern for the Deaf" in 1972.

In 1974, DHCC was incorporated with its own Board of Directors, some of whom are still serving today. As time passed, DHCC broadened its philosophical base, and began to provide services in direct response to needs expressed by Deaf and hearing persons.

DHCC's present mission is to promote communication accessibility, equality and cultural awareness to the Deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing communities by providing quality communication services, advocacy and educational programs.

Historically, DHCC's three main areas of service—Education, Interpreters Referral Division (IRD), and Message Relay Service (MRS)—have provided benefits to both the Deaf and hearing communities, and were established before most other schools, colleges, and organizations offered similar services. The MRS ceased to operate early in 1991, due to the advent of the AT&T TRS. During its operation, however, from 1977 to 1991, the MRS handled many thousands of calls—17,500 during 1990, the last full year of operation. No cost was ever incurred by the users of the service. DHCC has offered sign-language-interpreter referral services in the local 5-county area since 1987, and continues to do so. As of 1997, the IRD has provided approximately 1800 hours of interpreter referrals per month.

One of the Education Program's key component is its sign-language classes. In an informal atmosphere, hearing students have the opportunity to observe and interact with Deaf instructors using ASL.

➳ DHCC offers educational workshops to Deaf/HH persons, and to interpreters. For further information about any of the above programs or services:, contact DHCC at ☎(610) 534-4940 (TTY/Voice); ❒(610) 534-4942 (FAX); ❖DHCCInc@aol.com (E-mail). Address: 310 Amosland Road, Holmes, PA 19043-1216.

WHAT'S DOING IN & AROUND VIRGINIA

from the **NVRC Digest**

Expert help: The Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program volunteers came to NVRC for on-on-one help with filing Federal and Virginia taxes in late March. The workshop was available to residents of NVRC's service area: Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fauquier, Loudoun, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Prince William. Interpreters were available on request. ➢

Hey, wanna Rollerblade? Arlington County has been offering a 4-session class on In-Line Skating on Sundays from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. A sign-language interpreter is provided. It's a great opportunity to learn a new skill and get some exercise! Interested in future sessions? Fax to ❒(703) 228-4757 or call **Bonnie Strang** at ☎(703) 228-4612 (TTY). Classes were held April 19 and 26, May 3 and 10. Location: the in-line-skating deck at North 15th Street and North Quincy Street in Arlington. Fee: $50. ➢

Kiss-kiss, bang-bang: The James Bond movie ***Tomorrow Never Dies*** was shown with open captions at The Historic Senator Theatre in Baltimore, on March 16 at 8 p.m. The theater is a national historic landmark with 750 seats and a 40-foot screen. For information on possible upcoming captioned screenings, contact The Historic Senator Theatre at ☎(410) 323-1989 (Voice) or ❖info@silentpartner.org (E-mail). ➢

Titanic* warning:** One of **NVRC Digest's** subscribers went to see ***Titanic with some friends. She reported that there is so much flashing in the movie that it triggered seizures and caused some viewers to lose consciousness. She warns that if you are prone to react to flashing lights, you will want to be cautious about seeing this movie. ➢

Miracle or moneymaker? NVRC received a report that a story about the "Crystal Ear" hearing-aid-like device would be shown on ABC's ***20/20*** on Monday night (March 16). This device is advertised and sold in newspapers. **Matthew Bakke** of the Lexington Center in New York was interviewed for the story and addressed some of the misleading claims made in these advertisements. (Thanks to **Curtis Inoue** for this information.) ➢

Life's little ironies: A footnote to the current flap about captioning ***The Jerry Springer Show***: NVRC has learned that **Jerry Springer** has a deaf child. Ironic, isn't it? ➢

Photographers' & travelers' alert! Mark Avino passed on information to NVRC about a Channel 7 news story on March 16, warning people not to run their film through the airport X-ray equipment. Channel 7 said that 16 airports

worldwide are now equipped with new bomb-detection machines—six in the U.S.—and the Federal Aviation Administration is not saying which airports have those six.

Photographers have reported going on traveling assignments and bringing their film back to be processed. They found the developed film to be blank. Lead-lined film bags are sold at camera shops, but these have not yet been tested with the new bomb-detection X-rays. ➢

Lions Club notes: Each quarter, NVRC holds a Community Roundtable with a special guest speaker. In December, NVRC's guests were **Mike Nicolais**, Special Needs Coordinator of the District 24A Lions Club, and **Currell Tiffany**, Hearing Conservation Chair of the District 24A Lions Club. Among the things NVRC found out from these speakers:

Seven years ago, the Lions Club started a program to provide assistive devices for people with visual and hearing impairments. Some of the devices they have provided are visual smoke alarms through the fire department and FM systems.

The Lions Club also distributes reconditioned hearing aids through the Arlington Hearing Center, Blue Ridge Speech and Hearing Center, and Prince William Speech and Hearing Center. They cover the cost of hearing aid assessment and mold fitting. The Lions Club will not pay for hearing aids that have already been purchased.

To be considered for this Special Needs Equipment Program, you must live in Northern Virginia and be unable to afford the devices yourself. You must complete a financial statement form. Your annual income must be below $35,000. The evaluation process for your application can take 3 months or more.

The Lions Club provided the seed money to set up the hearing-loss-research center at the University of Virginia. This center also performs cochlear-implant surgery. ➢

Getting terps on Capitol Hill: Harvey Goodstein of the NAD recently reported that he was unable to get an interpreter for a hearing. But **NVRC Digest** subscriber **Michael Yared** reports that he attended an Individuals with Disabilities Education Act hearing and had an interpreter, even though he was not a witness. He recommends requesting interpreters through your member of Congress—ask for the constituent services staff person. He did, and the staffer ordered the Senate/House Special Services office to provide the interpreter. ➢

Keeping in touch with technology: The Technology Assessment Project at Gallaudet University has redesigned its Website: ✱http://tap.gallaudet.edu.

They are also sponsoring a new listserv for people using new technology such as wireless and video. They hope that consumers will use the E-mail exchange to help each other with tips on what they are trying and how they are using these and other technologies. You can sign up for this listserv on the Webpage.

Also on the Webpage is a server for NetMeeting that you can use if you have a camera with your computer and want to try it out.

These projects are funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. ➢

What's your "Hospital Story"? NVRC wants to know!

Dear NVRC Friends:

During the past few years, people contact NVRC to tell us about problems people have had. Most often the problem is that an interpreter is not being provided when requested, or that the interpreter is not provided for a very long time, often after a great deal of struggle. We have also heard reports of TTYs not being available or not being usable. Just recently a local consumer reported problems at Fairfax and Alexandria Hospitals.

These reports come despite all the laws on the books, despite the training NVRC has made, and despite the fact that hospitals have contracts for interpreter services. We would like to be able to document these problems to see if there are patterns.

If you have been experienced access problems in Northern Virginia hospitals or health care facilities in the past, we would appreciate hearing about them. We want to know about those problems whether you were a patient or a person assisting a patient. We are not just looking at interpreter services but also cued-speech transliterators and oral interpreters, assistive devices, TVs with captions, TTYs and visual alarms, etc. We also would like to know if you encountered problems with lack of training or sensitivity by medical staff, such as talking to you without first getting your attention or giving you glasses or your hearing aid.

Please give the name of the hospital, what problems you encountered, the approximate date the problems happened, and anything you did to resolve it. If you do not want your name used in our report, please let us know.

Many thanks,
Cheryl Heppner ➢

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Contct: ❖NVRCinfo@aol.com (E-mail).

DEAF HISTORY GOODIES

The next two presentations in the *Deaf History Series: 1998-99*, for Northern Virginia, are being held on May 11 and June 15.

May 11: Dr. **Victor Galloway**, "Deaf Education in the Early Twentieth Century"

This program focuses on the majority of living older deaf Americans who were born in the early 20th century, have been deaf since birth or early-deafened due to illness or accident, and who attended state residential schools for the

deaf. In those days, such schools generally did not allow the usage of sign language in the classroom. Students were expected to learn their "three R's" through speechreading and vocal speech alone. Dr. Galloway himself knows what it was like because he attended such a school. He will speak of his experiences and will also request that others in the audience share their school experiences. He is currently chief of the Deafness and Communications Disorders Branch of the Rehabilitation Services Administration in the U.S. Department of Education. May is "Older Americans Month."

June 15: **John Lopez**, "The Diversity of the Hispanic Community"

John Lopez, a product of the Mexican-American Civil Rights Movement and a current Harvard University Fellow on Latino Civil Rights, is an activist who happens to be deaf. He has written many articles on advocacy and leadership for the Deaf and Hispanic communities. He will discuss his extensive research and experience in Hispanic history and give an historical perspective of Hispanics and how they have played major roles in influencing U.S. culture and contributing to what makes the U.S. great today. He seeks to raise awareness about the observance of the annual Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15-October 15.

All presentations in this series are held in the auditorium of the Arlington County Central Library, 1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia, and are on Monday evenings, beginning at 7 p.m. This series is presented by the Arlington County Public Library with the assistance of two co-sponsors: the Friends of Arlington County Public Library and the Arlington County Disability Advisory Commission. The auditorium is equipped with FM assistive-hearing devices. Sign-language and voice interpreters will be present for these programs. If any other special accommodations are necessary to attend or participate in this library event, please call a week in advance: ☎(703) 358-6320 (TTY) or ☎(703) 358-5988 (Voice).

—**Alice L. Hagemeyer**

ADWAS' SMITH HONORED

Marilyn J. Smith, founder and Executive Director of Abused Women's Advocacy Services (ADWAS) in Seattle, Washington, has been named Phi Kappa Zeta's Woman of the Year. She was awarded this honor at a special presentation on March 13, at Gallaudet University.

Smith earned her Bachelor's degree in English in 1974, and her Master's degree in Counseling in 1977, both from Gallaudet College. She has devoted her professional career to counseling and advocacy services for deaf people, beginning her professional career at Seattle Central Community College. She later moved to the San Francisco Bay Area to become Director of Counseling for DCARA. In 1980, she returned to Seattle as Clinical Coordinator of Rehabilitation Services at the Hearing, Speech and Deafness Center, while maintaining a private mental-health practice in the Seattle area. During this time she responded to a growing need for the provision of services to deaf and deaf-blind victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. ADWAS was founded in 1986 and has become an important and vital resource in the Northwest.

In addition to her commitment to providing service through ADWAS, Smith has also volunteered her time to many organizations. She volunteers to do relay and deaf-blind interpreting services in Seattle for HIV testing, AIDS education, substance abuse, mental-health services, and women's-health workshops. She was one of the co-founders and past president of United Deaf Women of Washington, established in 1982. She later became involved with the national organization of Deaf Women United, serving on their Board of Directors from 1993 to 1997. She chaired DWU's National Conference in 1995.

She has presented numerous workshops on domestic violence, fundraising and grant-writing, deaf women, self-empowerment, parenting, and peer counseling. She is also the recipient of numerous awards from within and outside of the Deaf community, including the President's Crime Victim Services Award in 1996, NAD's Randall J. McClelland Award in 1996, and DCARA's Community Appreciation Award in 1997. She was also a 1996 Olympics "Community Hero" torchbearer.

COOKING UP ANOTHER HONOR

The Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) is a volunteer organization that works in partnership with the SBA to help entrepreneurs. Every month, the Seattle chapter of SCORE presents a "Hero Award," a recognition of the most successful small business utilizing SCORE's free services over a period of time.

This award was recently presented to **Danny** and **Holly Delcambre** of the Ragin' Cajun restaurant in downtown Seattle. During the presentation, whenever anyone spoke to Danny, Holly, his wife, business partner, and interpreter, quickly translated the words into signing. He quickly responded in signs that she simultaneously interpreted. Even though he has severely limited vision, conversation proceeded swiftly back and forth.

"Owning my own restaurant looked like the only option I would ever have to earn a living," said Delcambre. "I was told that a sheltered workshop would be my only chance for employment because I am deaf and have Usher's Syndrome, a condition that causes tunnel vision and severe night blindness. Working the rest of my life in a sheltered workshop was not acceptable to me. I made up my mind to create a way to be independent and productive. I always enjoyed cooking, so restaurant ownership was a logical choice."

Robert Meredith, U.S. Small Business Administration District Director, said, "Many businesses take advantage of one or two SBA programs. but Danny Delcambre made his business work by using just about every program SBA offers

in preparing to open his business. Delcambre received SCORE counseling, plus training, seminars, and workshops."

A turning point in Delcambre's life came the day he visited SCORE to meet with counselor **Jerry Schauermann**, a retired restaurateur and business owner. Schauermann admits that at their first encounter he tried to steer Delcambre away from the restaurant business. "The demands of running a business, particularly a restaurant, are numerous," says Schauermann. "Business planning, cash management, personnel supervision, and operations control are just as important as cooking good food. The only way to determine Danny's level of commitment was to see his plan in action."

Schauermann pledged to support Delcambre's business endeavor if he could prove that running a restaurant was what he really wanted. Schauermann agreed to fund a banquet, invite guests, and follow-up with a critique, providing Delcambre prepared the meal on his own from start to finish. Delcambre accepted the proposal and prepared an outstanding 8-course dinner.

"From that point on, I was determined that this young man deserved to own a restaurant. Anyone familiar with the drive and determination to prepare an exquisite meal independently in an unfamiliar kitchen, in spite of severe sight and hearing disabilities, had the entrepreneurial drive it takes to succeed."

And succeed it did. Owning and operating a Cajun restaurant proved to be the right choice.

Delcambre has received numerous honors, including recognition by the President's Committee for People with Disabilities and the Washington State Governor's Small Business Person of the Year award. Both the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) have produced documentaries featuring Delcambre and the Ragin' Cajun restaurant.*

*See "Sizzling in Seattle," October 1996 "News Briefs," pp. 15-16.

✏ **Editors' note:** We were pleased to get the original SCORE release, but dismayed to read a sentence in the second paragraph: "Danny is a deaf mute with severe vision limitations, but the communication proceeded almost as rapidly as if he were speaking and hearing." We wrote to SCORE Chapter #55 (since no byline was given on the release), explaining that "deaf mute" was an outmoded, inappropriate, and offensive term, and was especially unsuitable to describe someone who had just won a Hero's Award! At press time, we had not received any response.

ONCE IS NOT ENOUGH

Children enjoy having their favorite stories read over and over again. **Read It Again and Again**, a new manual and videotape in the Literacy Series from Pre-College National Mission Programs (PCNMP) at Gallaudet University, explores the values and techniques of using repeated readings for deaf and hard-of-hearing students in the classroom. Through shared reading sessions, students can discover the joy of books, become aware of how the written word works, and grow more confident in their own ability to read.

"Repeated reading is a natural and necessary part of language development," says PCNMP literacy coordinator **David Schleper**, who developed **Read It Again and Again**. "We wanted to show how many classroom goals can also be accomplished when teachers or librarians share the same story with students over a period of time."

Read It Again and Again helps promote English literacy through ASL. The captioned videotape is narrated in ASL by **Dennis Berrigan**, the coordinator for ASL training and evaluation at PCNMP. It shows examples of how ASL readers extend the text broadly on the first reading, then with each successive reading the signing comes closer and closer to the written text. During each re-reading, the same story is told with a slightly different focus to help beginning readers learn more about the printed text.

The **Read It Again and Again** manual and videotape outline 6 easy steps for conducting shared reading. In the reference section of the manual, Schleper lists effective books for repeated reading that use repetition, build on a pattern, have familiar sequences such as days of the week, or use rhythm and rhyme. These techniques help motivate children to read and offer teachers and parents creative ways to make books come alive for children. While the activities described in the manual and videotape are geared to classroom, the same principles can be used by parents at home. The activities can also benefit families who are recent immigrants, or have children of diverse backgrounds and abilities.

Read It Again and Again offers teachers another way to foster good readers in addition to techniques described in PCNMP's first literacy-series manual and videotape, **Reading to Deaf Children, Learning from Deaf Adults**.

SHAKESPEARE ON THE HIGH WIRE!

Continuing its tradition of producing cutting-edge theater for both deaf and hearing audiences, Deaf West Theatre is presenting a unique approach to a timeless tragedy by William Shakespeare. ***Romeo & Juliet: Circus Verona***, adapted and directed by **Elina deSantos**, had its World Premiere at the Odyssey Theatre Ensemble, opening Friday, April 17. This Odyssey Theatre guest production runs through May 17.

Though Deaf West Theatre has been stretching theatrical boundaries for the past 7 years, this is the first time the company has attempted the monumental challenge of performing a Shakespearean play. In this 1920's circus adaptation of Romeo 8c Juliet, the "star-crossed lovers" are a tightrope walker named Romeo, who is deaf, and a mime named Juliet, who is hearing. Featuring a multicultural cast of deaf and hearing actors, ***Romeo & Juliet: Circus Verona*** is

performed in ASL, with voice interpretation and projected subtitles.

The 17-member ensemble cast is headed by **Troy Kotsur** (Romeo), **Katie O'Neill** (Juliet), **Beverly Nero** (Nurse), **Jeffrey Anderson Gunter** (Spirit Man), and **Albie Selznick** (Mercutio).

Romeo & Juliet: Circus Verona is produced by Artistic Director **Ed Waterstreet**. Set designer is **Lawrence Miller**, with lighting design by **Rand Ryan** and costumes by **Maro Parian**. This is, by far, the most ambitious project ever undertaken by Deaf West Theatre. As Waterstreet explains: "American Sign Language is a foreign language. It's closer grammatically and syntactically to Greek, than English. In translating Shakespeare, we have to go through a multi-step process: first, we translate the Elizabethan text into modern American-English and then determine the conceptual equivalent in ASL. It's a collaborative effort between the ASL translators (three top scholars in the field), the director, and actors, whose artistic choices help ascertain the selection of the signs. And that's just the beginning.

DeSantos has directed three critically-acclaimed productions in three successive years (1995-1997) at the Odyssey Theatre Ensemble. David Mamet's ***Speed the Plough*** (7-month run); Arthur Miller's ***All My Sons*** (winner of 7 theater awards and 6 Critics Choices); and Clifford Odets' ***Awake & Sing*** (9-month run, 11 theater awards, including **Los Angeles Times'** "Best Production of the Year").

➳ Showtimes: Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. For ticket information and reservations: ☎(213) 660-8826 (TTY); ☎(213) 660-4673 (Voice).The Odyssey Theatre Ensemble is located at 2055 South Sepulveda Blvd., West Los Angeles (one block north of Olympic Blvd.), at Mississippi.

CASH & MARRY

CenterLight Sign & Voice Theatre presents a new work, ***The Tightwad***, inspired by Molière's classic farce, ***The Miser***. Specifically created for CenterLight by long-time collaborators **Joe Huber** and **Mark Elliott**, ***The Tightwad*** is being presented in the company's unique style of simultaneous sign language and voice, May 1-31, at the Griffin Theatre, 5404 N. Clark Street in Chicago.

It's 1926, the peak of the Roaring Twenties, and everyone is H-A-P-P-Y! Everyone except Lester, that is. He's the miserly owner of a once-flourishing Florida resort-beach hotel and is pinching every penny ("Hey, you never know when the stock market might crash!"). Lester has a *real* problem. He's a widower. And his deceased wife's will clearly states that he needs to remarry before his 60th birthday (which is coming up soon) or the inheritance will go to his children—and he can't have that! Whom could he possibly marry on such short notice? Why, the maid. The maid? Yes, the maid! Problem is, she just so happens to be in love with Clarence, Lester's son, and that's just the beginning of the trouble. (Not to mention three marriage proposals, five mistaken identities, and a hidden suitcase full of cash.)

The Tightwad features actors **George Brant, Kelly Cooper, Laurie Empen, Jonalee Folerynski, Page Hearn, Kevin Jackson, Ron Jiu, Melani Kaplan, Kathy Kautz, Jim Lomanto, Michael Lotke, James Christopher Simon, Alex Smith,** and **David Solovieff**.

Directed by Joe Huber; set and light design by **Robert A. Knuth**; costumes by **Greg Slawko**; props by **Annette Knitter**; stage managed by **Lori Willis**.

➳ Showtimes: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 p.m., and Sunday at 5 p.m. For ticket information and reservations: ☎(847) 559-9493 (TTY) or ☎(847)559-0110, ext. 237 (Voice).

THE VISITING EYE

Deaffilm Video, a television company founded in 1963 and funded mainly by Denmark's Ministry of Social Affairs, produces TV programs for deaf people in sign language. The Deaffilm Video crew visited the National Technical Institute for the Deaf on April 2 and 3, and filmed in around NTID, including Sunshine Too, NTID's touring-theater troupe, the Performing Arts Department, and the students themselves.

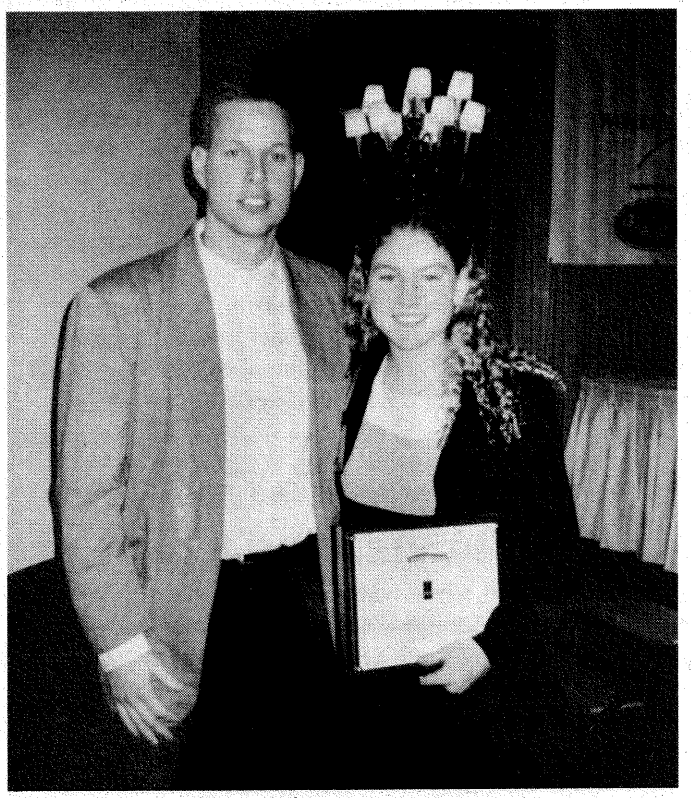
Since 1991, Deaffilm Video has broadcast programs on one of the two national-television channels in Denmark, showing a half-hour program for adults each week with another half-hour program for children and youth every other week. They also produce a daily 10-minute news program in sign language. The company employs 15 people, 5 of them Deaf.

Said producer **Per Poulsen**, "Of course, most of the stories in our programs are from and about Denmark, but we also feel it is very important to show how deaf people in other countries live. The language in our programs is Danish Sign Language, but if we are interviewing another deaf person in ASL, we will subtitle the interview. If we interview a hearing person, we will put a sign-language translator in the picture by using a chromakeyer."

Denmark's population of 5 million includes around 5,000 Deaf people whose first language is DSL. This population is the primary Deaffilm Video audience, but a large group of hard-of-hearing people who cannot follow an ordinary television program also watch Deaffilm Video shows. Viewers are estimated at 40,000 for the weekly programs and 80,000 for the daily news.

BORN TO WIN

The Women's Sports Foundation honored **Tamara Suiter** with a Scholar Sportswoman Award at a ceremony in Washington on February 4. Suiter, a student at the Model Secondary School for the Deaf (MSSD) located on the campus of Gallaudet University, was selected for her outstanding performance in volleyball, basketball, and softball while



Tamara Suiter with her volleyball coach, Lynn Ray Boren.

maintaining a high grade-point average. The National Girls and Women in Sports Day was established in 1987 by Congressional resolution to celebrate the achievements of girls and women in sports. It is celebrated in all 50 states with community-based events, award ceremonies, and other activities.

"Tamara was born to play volleyball," said her MSSD coach, **Lynn Ray Boren**. "She has been a key player on MSSD's varsity volleyball team since 1995. She's the backbone of our team. She used her leadership to keep our team together. This year she made a record 519 assists, breaking her own former record of 433." Suiter was selected as one of 10 Independent Schools League (IAL) all-league players and won all-tournament awards at both the Fredericksburg and Model Classic Tournaments. She has also won awards in softball and consistently achieves academic honors. She's been on the honor roll since 9th grade, has a 3.3 GPA, and is vice-president of the junior class.

Suiter balances her commitment to sports and academics through careful planning. "I love volleyball, but it's tough to find time for practice and study. I have managed to learn how to reduce my 'free time' and increase my study hours," she said. "My parents were the ones who kept emphasizing the importance of time management. Eventually, good time management became a habit."

Suiter comes from an athletic family. "Maybe her ability is genetic," said her father **Ricky Suiter**, Pre-College National Mission Programs Residence Education Program Manager. "Her grandfather was a Hall of Fame athlete at the Illinois School for the Deaf, and was awarded Player of the Year by the famous father of deaf athletics, **Art Kruger**. I myself was involved with sports at Gallaudet. We're proud of Tamara's achievements in both the sports arena and the classroom. We hope her younger sister Kristen will follow in her footsteps."

The Scholar Sportswoman award adds to a growing list of Suiter's honors. Last summer she won the Youth Leadership award at the NAD 1997 Youth Leadership Camp. This past February, she won a place on the U.S. World Games for the Deaf snowboarding team at a competition held in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The team of five women and six men will compete in the 1999 WGD in Davos, Switzerland. Suiter plans to continue playing volleyball at the collegiate level.

THE CORNER-KICK CHAMP!

John Martikainen, of Trumbull, Connecticut, a talented junior at the American School for the Deaf, was recently selected for the First Team Deaf Prep All-American Soccer team, the latest in a series of recognitions. During the '90s, ASD's Tigers have won four National Championships among schools for the deaf.

However, 1997 was a rebuilding year for the team. Martikainen led the 7-8-1 Tigers with 13 assists this season. No other player had more than two assists. He was second on the team with 9 goals scored, including a beautiful corner kick, the only corner kick goal recorded by the team this year.

Martikainen played in all 16 games despite suffering a severely dislocated finger that required a trip to the emergency room the opening week of the season.

Said ASD Athletic Director **Neil Robinson**: "John is a very tough, skillful competitor with a great sense of sportsmanship. He is a fine leader of the soccer program. We are all very proud of him."

Martikainen's other post-season honors include selection to the North/South Western New England Prep School Soccer Association All-Star Class M/S team. He played the entire game in the pouring rain on Sunday, November 9, at the Loomis-Chaffer School. He played left fullback for the North squad. This marked the first time a deaf student was ever selected for the team.

He was also selected to participate in the Senior Bowl East/West game at the Brooks School in Andover, Massachusetts, on November 16. This game was to showcase the top prep players in New England, but was unfortunately canceled due to inclement° weather.

Other recognitions include 1997 All-League team for the Connecticut Independent Schools Athletic Conference and 1997 Honorable Mention Select Team nomination for the Western New England Prep Schools. At ASD's recent sports-awards night, Martikainen received the Outstanding Player trophy for varsity soccer.

He was also a member of the ASD team that participated in

an International Soccer Tournament for deaf students last summer in Slovakia.

inclement: (*adjective*): harsh; severe; wintry. A polite way of describing nasty, unbearably cold or wet weather.

"I WANT PEOPLE TO LOOK AT MY ABILITIES"

by **Paul Newberry**
AP Sports Writer
Dateline: Kissimmee, Florida, March 23, 1998

With **Curtis Pride**, it all begins with the eyes.

They are full of wonder, constantly probing everything from a pitcher's curve to a teammate's chatter to a reporter's questions. They are the great equalizer in his world of silence.

"I want to be known as a good ballplayer," he said, those big, brown eyes blazing defiantly, "not just a deaf ballplayer."

Pride, who is trying to earn a spot on the Atlanta Braves bench, may not be able to hear the crack of the bat but considers himself no different [from] anyone else on the field. He may not hear the cheering of the fans, but he longs to earn a permanent job in the major leagues.

The outfielder thought that would come after he hit .300 with 10 homers, 31 RBIs, and 11 stolen bases for Detroit two years ago. But the Tigers were in the midst of the a youth movement, so the 29-year-old got pushed aside in 1997, finishing out the season with the Boston Red Sox.

"People always have a question mark over me because of my disability," said Pride, who reads lips and speaks quite clearly despite his hearing impairment. "It's frustrating. I want people to look beyond my disability and look at my abilities. I think I'm the equal of most guys as far as talent, maybe better. But I need an opportunity."

Plagued by 95 percent deafness, Pride is convinced he would have been a major-league regular by now if not for his disability.

Don't get the impression, however, that he sits around cursing others for his plight. His parents instructed him at an early age not to make excuses.

"We're still trying to figure out what happened in Detroit," said **John Pride**, who traveled with his wife to Disney World this week to watch their son in the waning days of spring training. "But one of the things we taught Curt is to just accept whatever happens, keep going, and everything will work out for the best."

Last month, Pride was signed by the Braves, who were looking for a left-handed pinch-hitter. With a week to go until opening day, he's been one of the most impressive players in camp, hitting .318 with two homers, 11 RBIs, and three stolen bases.

"I'm happy with the way I'm playing so far," he said. "They're given me a lot of opportunities and I'm just taking advantage of it. I came here with the intention of making the team."

The Braves are thoroughly impressed by Pride, who will apparently go down to the wire with first baseman **Randall Simon** for a spot on the 25-man roster. Simon is one of Atlanta's top young players, hitting .308 with 14 homers and 102 RBIs at Triple-A Richmond last season, but Pride has created a difficult decision.

In the clubhouse, meanwhile, Pride has fit right in with his new teammates despite the uniqueness of his situation.

"Believe me, it's not a disability," said fellow outfielder **Gerald Williams**, whose locker is adjacent to Pride's in the Braves spring training clubhouse. "If you spend a little time around him, you realize that he's quicker than most of us in terms of processing information. He's worked so hard throughout his life that it's now very easy for him to fit in."

Pride's mother, **Sallie**, contracted German measles while she was pregnant with Curtis. His hearing impairment was diagnosed when he was 7 months old.

"I think from the very beginning, we talked about sports with Curt," said Sallie Pride, who quit her job as a registered nurse after his birth so she could devote extra time to helping him deal with his deafness. "That's something you don't need a lot of language to participate in, which was very helpful to him."

"There was taunting and teasing when he was in elementary school," John Pride added. "But once kids realized what an exceptional athlete Curt was, they were more interested in trying to identify with him than teasing him."

On the field, a few concessions must be made to Pride's lack of hearing—for instance, when he calls for a ball in the outfield, it's automatically his—but he's basically just a ballplayer trying to earn a job.

"I can't control what's happened in the past," he said. "I just have to keep hitting and force them to do something with me. That's the only way I can do it."

✏ Fom an Associated Press report ("In world of silence, Pride pursues major league dreams"), March 23, 1998, carried on NJ-L News. ➤

JUST PLAIN FUN

Southern California Recreation Association of the Deaf Chapter (SCRAD-LA) held its annual Deaf Awareness Day at Universal Studios-Hollywood, on March 21. The weather was just beautiful—sunny and warm. Participants enjoyed the tram tour and interpreted shows. **Darryl L. Quan**, President of SCRAD-LA, and his Board of Directors, helped make this event a success. Accommodations to the needs of deaf/HH visitors have improved, thanks to WRAD and SCRAD-LA's pushing for better access. Interpreting was provided by the Sign Language Company of Southern California, led by **Bill Pugin**, who did a fabulous job, stationing interpreters almost everywhere in the park. They were talented and professional.

The park also prepared onscreen captions so participants could understand what their guides were saying. It was wonderful *and* accessible.

Bruce Gross, President of WRAD International, writes: "I felt great being at Universal Studios yesterday—it was one of my best visits in years. I also was proud to include some of our foreign visitors. They were **Donovan Mulligan** of Capetown, South Africa, still in Los Angeles on vacation, two Italians, **Alex** and **Guisy**, and **Alexander** ("**Sasha**") **Mutunine**. He came from Moscow a few years ago, is now living in San Diego, and was just elected the new President of SCRAD-SD. Sasha came with his sister and one of his clients from San Diego to enjoy the park.

"We also had dinner at Tony Roma's at Citywalk at Universal Studios. It was Donovan's 30th birthday so we had about 30 people with us to help celebrate. The restaurant was wonderful; they had signing waitresses who sang "Happy Birthday" to Donovan in ASL, then he had a birthday cake. It was an enjoyable evening for many of us.

"It was hard to say how many of our people came to Universal yesterday but we saw many people signing all over the park. We will have it again next year, I am sure, so plan on visiting it if you have not done so yet.

"SCRAD-LA is having a big Deaf Awareness Day again at Magic Mountain Amusement Park on Saturday, May 16th, so I am sure this is going to be another big hit for our organization.

I would like to thank Universal Studios and the SCRAD-LA Chapter as well as the Sign Language Company for making the day possible. It was a great one!!!!!!!"

THINK BIG!

Ultratec'a new state-of-the-art TTY, the Superprint Pro80™, is now on the market. This exciting new TTY prints on wider "normal-sized" paper, has a full computer-style keyboard, and offers a bright display screen that is 12 characters longer than traditional TTY displays.

For the first time ever in a TTY, the Superprint Pro80 provides Caller ID capability, allowing people who have this service to see who is on the line before answering the call. In addition, the Pro80 includes advanced technology such as Turbo Code® to save users time and money on their calls.

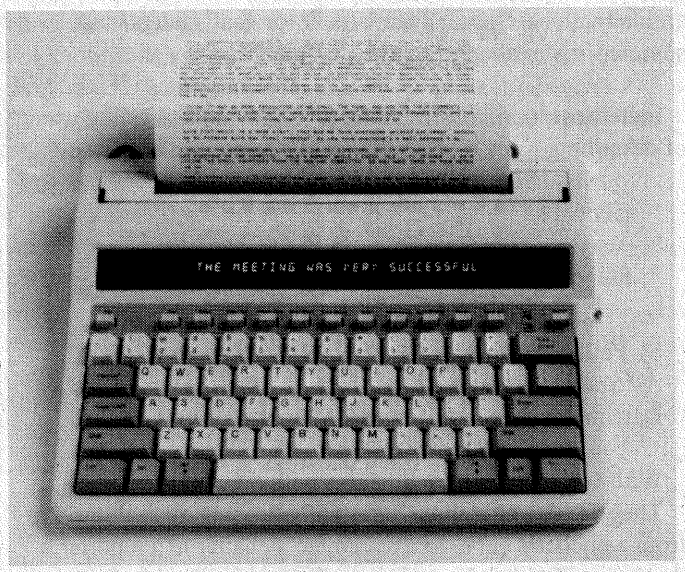
Among other features, the Pro80 includes:

• Full 80-column printer. It prints on 8.5" wide thermal paper (instead of the traditional 2.25" wide TTY paper), making conversations much easier to read, save, and work with. Users can choose from several easy-to-read print sizes.

• Built-in Caller ID* capability. The TTY can tell you who is calling even before you answer the phone. Users who have Caller ID service will no longer need a separate Caller ID box—the TTY has Caller ID built in!

**Note: This requires Caller ID service from the telephone company.*

• Extra-wide 32-character display. Designed for easy reading, the full-length display shows 12 more characters than a traditional TTY-display screen.



Nice and roomy: the new Superprint Pro80

• True-sized computer-style keyboard. Typing is comfortable and easy with the full size keyboard, just as on a laptop PC.

• One-Touch function keys. Convenient speed-dialing keys, with only the touch of a button, for calling your relay service, frequently called numbers, or even emergency services. Other one-touch functions include: sending a Greeting Message, the Relay Voice Announcer, and more.

• Auto-answer. The Superprint Pro80 will answer calls with a personal programmable message, then take TTY messages. It can even give the caller the local relay number, helping hearing callers reach TTY users more easily.

• All of Ultratec's state-of-the-art technology, such as Turbo Code®, Call Progress, Auto ID™, Time & Date Stamp, etc.

A version of the Superprint Pro80 with ASCII is also available as an option.

"MAKING A REAL-LIFE DIFFERENCE" FOR LATE-DEAF & H/H

The California School of Professional Psychology-San Diego (CSPP-SD) has received a $2.5 million 5-year renewal grant from the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) to expand activities at its federally-funded Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC), which focuses on research and services for the hard-of-hearing and late-deafened. The renewal grant, which provides funding through September 30, 2002, stipulates a focus on addressing personal-adjustment issues and the maintenance of employment status for people who lose their hearing partially or later in life.

The new funding, awarded in September 1997 by the DOE's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation

Research, supports a program that broadens the RRTC's mandate from its former primary focus on mental-health issues to an emphasis on employment issues. Some of the funds will be used to involve businesses, corporations, and trade, professional, and consumer organizations in collecting research data and providing information and services that can help the hard-of-hearing and late-deafened employees adjust to new circumstances and remain in their jobs.

"More than 22 million people struggle with being hard-of-hearing, and an additional 1.5 million people experience late-onset deafness, according to the National Center for Health Statistics," said **Brenda Battat**, Deputy Executive Director of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, Inc. (SHHH), a major subcontractor on the grant. "Because it plans to work with and through employers, human-resource organizations, counseling organizations, and consumer organizations like ours, the RRTC will make a real-life difference to the very large numbers of persons who are hard-of-hearing."

Directing the project is **Raymond Trybus**, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology and Chancellor of CSPP's San Diego campus. Research and services development activities will be conducted by a combination of staff from the RRTC at CSPP-San Diego, and key partners at other institutions and organizations across the country. In addition to SHHH, the Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA) and the SayWhatClub will assist with data collection and information dissemination.

Two studies that will contribute data about ethnically diverse populations have been incorporated into the study. Howard University Hospital, which serves a Hispanic/Central American population in Washington, will study those who come in for hearing-related services, and the Veteran's Administration in Portland, Oregon will contribute data collected from its sizable hearing-rehabilitation center for veterans.

A national advisory board comprised of key leaders in business, government, and research has been assembled to oversee the progress of the RRTC. Among those who have agreed to join the Board is **Robert Ross**, MD, Director of the Department of Health Services for the County of San Diego, who calls the RRTC's approach "exactly right for this era. Government alone cannot be expected to address all social and public-health problems. It takes the entire community, through its businesses, corporations, trade and professional associations, and the like, to make life better for our citizens, including those with hearing losses."

Attorney **Jerry Monroe** also serves on the RRTC national advisory board. As a former Board of Director for the Greater San Diego Chamber of Commerce, chairman of its Health Care Committee, and hard-of-hearing himself, he applauds the goals of the RRTC. "Hearing loss is a pervasive but little-recognized health problem in our society. This program will make new and important inroads in both understanding and methods for coping with it."

Other organizations participating in aspects of the funded work include the American Indian Health Center in Tucson, Arizona; the San Diego Unified School District; the California School for the Deaf at Riverside; California State University at Northridge; and Gallaudet University.

"The San Diego Chamber of Commerce has given us a letter of support, and has agreed to collaborate by bringing in some of the larger local organizations," said Trybus. "This phase of the grant will emphasize training. We're going to make sure that counselors, human-resource professionals, physicians, mental health providers, and other service providers understand how to assist this special population." (NJ-L News) ➤

EARLY SCREENING COMES TO FLANDERS

Kind en Gezin (Child and Family), a government agency located in Flanders, the northern region of Belgium, has successfully integrated universal newborn-hearing screening into its established preventative pediatric-healthcare program.

As part of the existing program, a district nurse visits all new mothers three to four times in the first few weeks following the birth of a baby. These visits help to educate and provide support to new parents. In addition, nurses conduct a complete assessment of each newborn's health, which will now include screening for hearing loss.

Following extensive review and evaluation, the agency selected Automated Auditory Brainstem Response (AABR™) technology, unique to Natus Medical Inc.'s ALGO™ Newborn Hearing Screener. To meet the goals set forth by *Kind en Gezin*, it was necessary for the equipment to be easy to use, highly accurate, and economical. At the conclusion of an intensive 6-month pilot project, Natus' ALGO screener was selected to perform universal newborn-hearing screening in Flanders. Flanders has an annual birth rate of 66,000. The ALGO screener is the only device that uses patented AABR technology that screens the complete hearing pathway from the ear to the brainstem, offering the highest level of accuracy available.

Study results reported by **Christine Yoshinaga-Itano**, Ph.D., Chair, Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Services at the University of Colorado, Boulder, show that proper follow-up and intervention make a remarkable difference in the language ability of children born with hearing loss.* Children identified at birth as deaf or hard-of-hearing will have the opportunity to develop a normal range of language comprehension, verbal expression, and psycho-social development. In contrast, children who are identified at 6 months of age or older are likely to experience significant and irrecoverable delays in both language and psycho-social development.

"Natus Medical's ALGO Newborn Bearing Screener has proven ideal for the specified requirements encountered during the trial period and since its general implementation. The equipment is simple, effective, and produces immediate,

objective results," said **Erwin van Kerschaver**, MD, scientific advisor, *Kind en Gezin*. "The ALGO screener has been well received by the Belgian medical community and has enabled nursing staff without specific audiological backgrounds to perform hearing screening in a variety of settings, including home visits."

The 4-month trial period has already proven to be effective with the identification of a deaf child at 3 weeks of age. "We are extremely happy with the success we are already seeing in just a short period of time," said **Luc Stappaerts**, a district nurse.

"Hearing impairment is a global issue," said **William New, Jr.**, MD, Ph.D., Chairman and CEO, Natus Medical Inc. "We are especially pleased that newborn-hearing screening is gaining the international attention it deserves. That the Belgian medical community has successfully integrated the ALGO screener into its preventative healthcare program is an admirable step in the right direction. We hope other countries will follow Belgium's lead and make newborn-hearing screening a priority."

*Dr. Yoshinaga-Itano has been researching the language acquisition of early-identified deaf babies. She is particularly interested in deaf children who are exposed to sign language as their first mode of communication. Natus' press releases say nothing about the method of communication used after the babies are identified as deaf or hard-of-hearing. But in Colorado, at least, sign language is considered a real option, not just a last resort. We don't know what the situation in Belgium is, though.—Editors

CID'S GRAD PROGRAM GETS HIGH RANKING

The Master's Degree audiology-training program at Central Institute for the Deaf earned Top 10 honors in recently published ratings of professional schools compiled by **U.S. News & World Report**.

The program at CID provides graduate-level training leading to fully-accredited degrees in Audiology, along with similar programs at CID in Communication Sciences and Education of the Hearing-Impaired [*sic*], through a financially independent affiliation with Washington University. The School of Medicine at Washington University ranked No. 3 nationally in the **U.S. News & World Report** survey.

Said CID Executive Director **Donald W. Nielsen**, Ph.D.: "CID is extremely pleased to join the other fine programs at Washington University that rank in the Top 10 nationally. We also are gratified to be included in the Top 10 alongside other such highly-regarded audiology programs as those at the #1-rated University of Iowa and several other large universities,"

The ratings, compiled for seven health disciplines, ranked the programs based on scholarship, curriculum, and the quality of the faculty and graduate students. Graduate students have enrolled in CID's programs from most of the 50 states and 38 foreign countries.

"Having an internationally renowned school for deaf children and clinical facilities on campus helps us attract students to our graduate program," said **William W. Clark**, Ph.D., Chairman of the Department of Speech and Hearing at Washington University and Director of Professional Services for CID. He noted that CID's research into causes and solutions for deafness also helps attract students.

CID alumni lead other schools, clinics, and research organizations worldwide. Diagnostic and evaluation tools developed at CID are used in all 50 states and in 34 foreign countries.

NOW HEAR THIS!

Are you tired of your neighbors hollering at you to turn down the volume on your TV? Is your spouse tired of repeating everything two or three times? Did you miss hearing the winning number at Bingo?

The Audiology Clinic at United Hearing & Deaf Services, Inc., invites you to visit its Assistive Listening Device Center and learn about the latest advances in hearing technology. The Center, supervised by a clinical audiologist, offers residents of Broward County the opportunity to try out the equipment before a purchase is made. This program is a free service of UHDS.

➳ For information about the ALD Center and other services provided by United Hearing & Deaf Services, call ☎(954) 731-7200 (TTY/Voice) or ☎(954) 731-7208 (TTY).

WHAT'S NEW AT B.H.I.

On January 26, **Michele D. Hartlove**, Acting Executive Director of the Better Hearing Institute (BHI), announced that 22,000 hearing-care providers—audiologists, hearing instrument specialists, and otolaryngologists—would be listed on BHI's Website (✱www.betterhearing.org) in the new *Directory of Hearing Care Providers*, which went online in February.

Providers make a tax-deductible $100 contribution for each listing. Information about the provider's service receives distinctive display and placement. Donations support both the BHI's diverse educational initiatives° and the maintenance of a large and complex database. Said Hartlove: "The Directory is an important addition to the Institute's online resources, and it has been welcomed enthusiastically by the hearing industry."

Area code and hometown name are all that are needed for an Internet visitor to gain access to the names and addresses of local providers.

➳ For additional information about the Directory, call ☎888-HEAR HELP.

initiatives: *(noun, plural)* beginnings of actions.

❝❞ ***Perestroika*:** During BHI's recent Board meeting, **Dale Thorstad**, Vice President of Operations at Starkey, was elected president, succeeding **Jerry Johnson**, a leader in the hearing industry who was BHI president for three successive terms and who will continue on the Board as immediate past president. **Roger Warren**, President of Rayovac's International/Micropower and an HIA Board member, was elected Secretary, succeeding Dr. **Sergei Kochkin** of Knowles. **Joan Lowry**, who is the Board representative of the public sector, was re-elected Treasurer. She has served in this position on the BHI Board for 6 successive terms.

Other Board changes include the election of **Mike Jones**, President of Phonak, as a Board representative of the hearing-aid industry and the retirement of **Ross J. Roeser**, Ph.D., audiologist and Director of the Callier Center for Communication Disorders. Dr. Roeser served as immediate past president on the Board and was replaced in this position by Johnson.

Other Board members include: **Dean H. Griffin**, M.D., family physician and chairman of BHI's Family Physician Panel; **Harry R. Sauberman**, P.E., FDA executive; **Michael K. Stone**, Kentucky hearing-aid specialist and past president of the International Hearing Society; and **Don W. Worthington**, Ph.D., prominent Utah audiologist.

The record number of HelpLine inquiries (50,000) in 1997, the new BHI Website, and the family-physician program were just a few of the major initiatives reviewed by the Board. Acting Executive Director Hartlove, successor of Chairman Emeritus **Joe Rizzo**, received kudos° from the Board for her leadership and vision during a challenging transition period at BHI.

perestroika: (noun) restructuring; reshuffling. (Russian.)
kudos: (*noun, general [not a plural]*) high praise; acclaim. (From the Greek word for fame or glory.)

❝❞ **Freebies on request:** Duracell USA, of Bethel, Connecticut, a major BHI sponsor of BHI, is funding the reprinting of *A Guide to Your Child's Hearing*.

This popular parent resource has received Duracell's support since its inception. It was a grant from Duracell that made possible the first edition, and another Duracell grant insured that the *Guide* was available for distribution by volunteers of the Speakers Bureau. In addition, Duracell funded BHI's multimedia campaign to educate the public about available help for hearing loss and to dispel° prejudice about hearing aids.

"Duracell's latest grant will continue to help thousands of parents throughout North America who call BHI's Hearing HelpLine to request *A Guide to Your Child's Hearing*. In addition, school nurses and community nursing services have ordered quantities of the booklet to educate the parents they serve. *A Guide to Your Child's Hearing* is an important resource for both parents and health care providers in protecting the hearing health of children."

❝❞ Starkey and the Starkey Foundation are underwriting BHI's new **Leslie Nielsen** TV PSA that promotes its latest brochure, *Help Through Hearing Aids—A Guide to Today's Hearing Instruments*. The PSA was released in early February.

Bill Austin, President of Starkey, presented the grant to BHI before the annual meeting of BHI's Board of Directors in Washington, D.C. "This television PSA will inform viewers across the country that now there is an excellent consumer brochure that demystifies the choices in purchasing a hearing aid. The booklet is an important resource both for consumers and for hearing-care providers. Starkey is pleased to be able to support BHI in its work of educating the public about remedies for hearing loss."

Nielsen, the star of the popular ***Naked Gun*** movie series and the recently released Walt Disney production ***Mr. Magoo***, is the PSA spokesman and International Chairman of BHI. In the PSA, he speaks openly of his own hearing loss and how he has corrected it with binaural hearing aids.

Starkey and the Starkey Foundation have supported BHI's multimedia educational projects for many years. The recent and very successful print and television PSAs with former First Lady **Rosalynn Carter** about available help for hearing loss and tinnitus were funded in part by Starkey. Earlier PSAs with Leslie Nielsen, **Donald O'Connor**, **Shelley Beattie**, and **Al** and **Bobby Unser** were also supported by Starkey and the Starkey Foundation.

❝❞ *Help Through Hearing Aids—A Guide to Today's Hearing Instruments* has received an enthusiastic reception from the public. Demand for both individual free copies and for quantities has depleted the first printing. The Hearing Industries Association (HIA) has agreed to fund a reprinting.

This popular booklet answers consumer questions about the causes and signs of hearing loss, new hearing-aid technology, choices in hearing-aid design, and common myths about hearing loss. *Help Through Hearing Aids* also discusses sensitive psychosocial issues in hearing loss and advises about consumer protections and the realistic expectations that facilitate successful adjustment to hearing aids.

"HIA's grant for *Help Through Hearing Aids* makes important information available to consumers," said Michele Hartlove. "This popular resource enables consumers to make decisions about hearing aids based on their hearing loss, lifestyle, and budget. Choices for better hearing will be clearer for many individuals with hearing loss because of this collaboration of BHI and HIA."

❝❞ Etymotic Research of Elk Grove Village, Illinois, a major BHI sponsor, is funding the reprinting of *Your Guide To Better Hearing*. Etymotic most recently funded a BHI special project with seed money for a promotional media blitz with National Chairman **Richard Thomas** and Sergei Kochkin, Ph.D.

"*Your Guide to Better Hearing* bolsters the reader's hope that better hearing is available when a hearing loss occurs," said Michele D. Hartlove. "[It's] one of the Institute's most

popular booklets, because it details clearly and succinctly° the causes and remedies for hearing loss as well as psychosocial considerations not only for the person with the hearing loss but for friends and family too. Etymotic's grant will have a positive impact on the hearing health of many, many people."

dispel: (*verb*) eliminate; "kick out."
succinctly: (*adverb*) concisely; briefly.

"What did you say, Doc?—I'm hard of WHAT???"
Screening for hearing loss during regular physical examinations will be the topic of the lecture for 2,000 attendees at the *1998 Scientific Assembly of the American Academy of Family Physicians* (AAFP) in San Francisco next September. BHI's Family Physician Panel has played a key role in bringing the significance of regular hearing screenings to the upcoming AAFP meeting.

"Patients should believe that hearing loss is a health problem," said **Dean H. Griffin**, M.D., Chairman of the Panel. We want them to look to their physicians for help when hearing well becomes difficult. It is the mission of our Family Physician Panel to educate physicians and medical students about the importance of including a hearing screening in regular physical examinations." The AAFP lecture, "Helping Those with Hearing Loss: Solutions for All Ages," on Wednesday, September 16, 1998, will include presentations by comedienne **Kathy Buckley**, who overcame an undetected hearing loss, and **Steve Allen**, M.D. On the following day, Dr. Allen and Buckley will be joined by members of the BHI Family Physician Panel for a hands-on opportunity for participants to learn more about screening for hearing loss, screening instruments, hearing aids, and hearing-care providers. Other experts will be available to answer questions, including Ross J. Roeser, Ph.D., a past president of BHI and currently Director of the Callier Center for Communication Disorders at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Members of the BHI Family Physician Panel have extensive experience with hearing loss as well as in medical education and administration. Members include **Jay Ach**, M.D., Cincinnati, Ohio; **Deborah I. Allen**, M.D., Indianapolis, Indiana; **Ross Black**, M.D., Akron, Ohio; **Harry Metcalf**, M.D., and **Kaaren Metcalf**, Ph.D., both of Buffalo, New York. Consultants to the panel include **Patrick Brookhouser**, M.D., Omaha, Nebraska; **Sue Overman-Garcia**, Skaneateles Falls, New York; and **McCay Vernon**, Ph.D., St. Augustine, Florida.

In support of the mission of the Family Physician Panel, BHI with Welch Allyn's sponsorship, has produced *A Physician's Guide for Identifying Hearing Loss*.

☛ For a free copy or multiple copies of *A Guide to Your Child's Hearing*, *Help Through Hearing Aids*, *Your Guide to Better Hearing*, or *A Physician's Guide for Identifying Hearing Loss*, call BHI's Hearing HelpLine at ☎800-EAR-WELL (TTY/Voice) or visit the BHI Website at ✱www.betterhearing.org.

I.D.E.A. UNDER ATTACK

Rights of students with disabilities in severe jeopardy!

Secretary of Education **Richard Riley** has been under heavy attack by groups who want to reopen the debates resolved by the passage of IDEA last year. These groups want to weaken the protections for children contained in that law. They have bombarded the Secretary and Congress with their complaints long after the regulatory comment period ended, demanding weakening changes.

Can we afford to allow this to happen? Students with disabilities need our help NOW. Contact Secretary Riley and urge him to hold strong to the protections embodied in the IDEA OE97 Reauthorization and existing policy letters. Don't let special-interest groups undermine the new IDEA.

The time is now. ONLY YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Contact Secretary Riley and your Senators and Representatives. Let them know that they cannot back away from their commitment to our children.

✍ ✉ ✍ ✉ ✍ ✉ ✍ ✉ ✍ ✉ ✍ ✉ ✍

The Honorable Richard Riley
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
Washington, D.C. 20202

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KEEP I.D.E.A. STRONG

On June 4, 1997, the reauthorized IDEA was signed into law by **President Clinton**. This law was developed through an unprecedented bicameral, bipartisan effort. It was carefully crafted to respond to the sometimes conflicting concerns of parents and professionals. The Department of Education published proposed regulations on October 22, 1997. The regulations followed the intent of Congress by incorporating language directly from the statute. The regulations also followed the instructions of Congress by incorporating existing Policy Letters into the proposed regulations, to subject them to public review and comment. The comments to the Notice of Proposed Rule-Making were due January 20, 1998. The Department of Education received over 2,000 comments. National Parent Network on Disabilities submitted over 50 pages of comments produced by 60+ members of its organization. All of the other stakeholders had the same opportunity to submit their comments within the regulatory timeframe.

Apparently influenced by heavy pressure from some "general education" groups, key Republican leaders of the House and Senate submitted a joint letter to Secretary Riley. These Congressional leaders did not seek input from parents or other disability leaders. (In some cases, their recommendations recommend removal of language that is actually in the legislation and supported by the Congressional intent!) (Text

of NPND's response to the NPRM, the Congressional letter, and an analysis of the Congressional letter are on the NPND Website (✷http://www.npnd.org). NPND has now learned that leaders of some "general education" groups have been deluging° Congressional leaders and the Secretary of Education with the complaint that "the regs have gone too far!" Rumor has it that the Secretary has received over 3,000 of these letters. This kind of pressure is a behind-the-scenes, back-door subversion of the regulatory process.

GORTON ON THE ATTACK AGAIN

On Wednesday, March 18, Senator **Slade Gorton** (WA)—a fierce opponent of the rights of children with disabilities—presented his "photo opportunity" about the new IDEA. He had a roll of paper 40 feet long as an example of the paperwork that will supposedly now be required of teachers. He spouted hyperbole about knives and guns and students with disabilities threatening other students with an electric saw in shop class. His threats to IDEA, and the threats of the general educators "special interest" groups, are real—and we must respond NOW.

WHAT ACTION NEEDS TO BE TAKEN NOW?

Contact the Secretary of Education
Contact Hill Leaders, Chairmen **Jeffords** and **Goodling**
Contact your Senators and Representatives

WHAT IS THE MESSAGE?

IDEA is a good law. Implement and fund IDEA now! Do not weaken the regulations. If anything, they don't provide enough guidance to ensure that the law is appropriately implemented. The U.S. Department of Education was RIGHT to incorporate existing policy letters into the proposed regulations, they did just what Congress told them to do. Don't destroy the consensus that was built during this unique legislative process. Don't let special-interest groups reopen the debates that were resolved by the passage of IDEA. Don't reward those groups for subverting the regulatory process. We expect the Secretary and our representatives to stay strong and demonstrate their real commitment to our children with disabilities. Remember the promises made during the passage of IDEA! Honor them!

Check the NPND website for Congressional contacts. To call members of the House and Senate, call ☎(202) 224-3121.

➳ Contact: NPND, 1200 G Street, NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20005; ☎(202) 434-8686 (Voice) ❒(202) 638-0509 (FAX); ❖npnd@cs.com (E-mail); ✷http://www.npnd.org (Website).

deluging: flooding; bombarding.

DEMOCRACY, CARIBBEAN-STYLE

The Founding General Assembly of the Association of Caribbean Electoral Organizations (ACED) was held at the Condado Plaza Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico, from March 30 to April 1. Co-sponsors of this event included the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), the State Elections Commission of Puerto Rico (CEE) and the Organization of American States (OAS). Election officials from more than 20 Caribbean nations and guests from several non-Caribbean countries were expected to attend the 3-day meeting.

The Association is being created to promote cooperation and mutual assistance among electoral organizations in the Caribbean. In addition to founding the new Association, attendees participated in working groups organized around the theme, "Promoting Access to the Political Process for Citizens with Disabilities." The gathering focused on topics such as the role of non-governmental organizations in promoting electoral rights for people with disabilities, a review of different approaches to guaranteeing full access to the political process for people with disabilities, and a comparative analysis of electoral laws.

"The ACEO will help sustain democracy in the Caribbean by giving election officials from all over the region the opportunity to join together to share information, to learn from each other, and to participate in a regular dialogue on the importance of permanent and professional election administration," said IFES President Richard Soudriette. "The people of the Caribbean are firmly committed to democracy, and to enabling all citizens to fully participate in the democratic process."

The ACEO will provide a Caribbean-based organization to assist in international election observation, networking, professional development, and the promotion of the field of election administration as a key to guarding the integrity of the election process. During the General Assembly, charter members of the Association voted on an Executive Board and planned future Association activities.

➳ IFES' address is 1101 - 15th Street NW, Third Floor, Washington, D.C. 20005; ☎(202) 828-8507 (Voice); ❒(202) 452-0804 (FAX). The conference Website is ✷http://www.ifes.org/caribbean.

Background: IFES is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan foundation created to provide election-related technical assistance, observation activities, civic and voter-education programs, and support for civil-society development in emerging and established democracies. IFES has worked in 100 countries world wide and recently celebrated its 10th anniversary.

WANT A FREEBIE? WANNA DO SOMETHING GOOD? EL NIÑO HIT YOU? PLANT A TREE!

In a move to make 1998 the biggest tree-planting year ever, Arbor Day USA, a nonprofit environmental group, is giving away more than 12 million trees nationwide, the largest single distribution ever attempted. The trees are being offered free of charge to anyone who wants some of them.

"Planting a tree is one of the easiest and most positive things we can do for the environment, but also it serves as one of the best teaching tools we have for our children," said program coordinator **Col. David Wright**.

➳ Arbor Day USA is operating two Internet sites to help with the distribution: ✷www.arborday.com and ✷www.freetrees.com. "This way we process requests electronically, we save paper and indirectly trees, which is consistent with our mission," Wright said. Of course, traditional postal methods are also available for people to get their free trees. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Arbor Day USA, P.O. Box 980, Washington, DC 20044. A form will be promptly returned.

Households can get 5 to 25 trees each. Schools can get up to 250 for their Arbor Day or Earth Day celebrations, while anyone who has sustained damage from El Niño or other winter storms, can get as many as 25 to 75 to replace trees that were lost. The pre-treated trees arrive complete with planting instructions, fertilizer, and a guarantee. Recipients pay no more than the program's shipping and handling costs to get the young plants to their home; no memberships are solicited or required. "All the trees are state USDA-APHIS inspected and in top condition," said Pennsylvania tree farmer **Dwight Johnston**. Five different kinds of trees are available. The type of tree you receive depends on your growing zone.

The saplings come from tree farms all over the U.S. that have extra on hand, because they anticipated stronger markets and grew too many. "If we don't get these trees out to the public or get them planted they'll go to waste," Wright said. "This giveaway is a win-win situation. We have a great opportunity to make a major impact on our ecology, better our landscapes, and improve our urban forests. The program will be 'releafing' storm-damaged communities and prevent[ing] the waste of surplus plants." The first giveaway accepted registrations through April 11 for spring delivery. Later requests will be honored for the fall-planting season.

So far, 1998 appears to be well on its way to becoming the largest tree-planting year ever in the U.S. The giveaway program has signed up over 1000 schools from Maine to San Diego to receive trees. Arbor Day USA recently developed alliances with the Nickelodeon/Big Help/McDonald's promotion, the National Wildlife Federation, Tree Musketeers, Kids for a Clean Environment, and Earth Day, among others, to plant many more millions of trees nationwide this year and through the millennia.

N.B. National Arbor Day was recognized this year on Friday, April 24, Earth Day on April 22, Big Help Week and National Wildlife Week from April 19-25. Arbor Day USA, a charitable environmental program is not affiliated or associated in any way with the membership organization The National Arbor Day Foundation, a registered trademark.

THE GLORIOUS STONE

The American Museum of Natural History has extended *The Nature of Diamonds*, one of the most popular exhibitions in the Museum's history. As a result of continuing strong public interest, the exhibition will be on view through August 30, rather than the originally-announced closing date of April 26.

The Nature of Diamonds is the most comprehensive exhibition ever mounted on the subject of diamonds. Through a balanced blend of scientific and cultural examination, the critically-acclaimed exhibition explores all facets of this incredible mineral, from its geological origins to its place in history, art, adornment, and literature, to its uses in modern technology and research. The exhibition features dozens of breathtaking gems and jewels on loan from public and private collections all over the world.

To date, nearly a quarter-of-a-million visitors have seen the *Diamonds* exhibition, which has been sold out virtually every weekend since its opening on November 1, 1997. Museum surveys show that the average visit to the exhibition has been roughly one hour—more than twice that of the typical Museum visit to a special exhibition—with visitors not only marveling at the stunning objects on display, but also carefully reading the informative text panels, watching the educational videos, and asking questions of the diamond cutter who works in the exhibition 5 days a week.

Among several new loans being made to the exhibition is the dazzling diamond crown of Tsar Ivan Alexeevich, older half-brother of Peter the Great. On loan from the Kremlin State Museums in Moscow, this spectacular crown of gold, silver, diamonds. tourmaline, pearls, enamel, and fur was made in 1684 by the Moscow Kremlin Workshop. Among the magnificent gems that have been especially popular since the exhibition opened are the 407.48-carat *Incomparable*, the third largest cut-diamond in the world (on loan from Zale Corporation, Dallas, Texas; Marvin Samuels, Premier Gem Corporation, New York; and Louis Glick, Louis Glick Co., New York), the spectacular 107.46-carat *Rojtman* diamond (on loan from a private collection); Elizabeth Taylor's 33.19-carat emerald-cut *Krupp* diamond, a gift to her from Richard Burton; and a stunning array of jewels from the Kremlin State Museums, including Catherine the Great's bejeweled *Gospel Cover* and the dazzling *Sultan Feather* given to Catherine by the Sultan of Turkey as an ornament for her horse.

Also on view are exemplary specimens of diamonds in their

natural state and a diverse array of other exhibits, all illuminating the many roles and qualities of diamond.

The Nature of Diamonds has been developed with support from the Diamond Information Center on behalf of De Beers.

➳ It's open Sunday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday to 8:00 p.m. Admission is by timed ticket only. There is a special exhibition fee, which includes Museum admission: $12.00 adults, $8.50 students and elderly, and $6.50 children (12 and under). The exhibition is free with Museum admission on Fridays beginning at 6:00 p.m., space permitting. Exhibition and admission fees help support the research and educational programs of the Museum.

To guarantee admission on the date of choice—particularly on weekends reserve tickets in advance by calling ☎(212) 769-5200 (Voice).

BITS & PIECES

☞ **To honor & cherish:** Children of Deaf Adults International, Inc. (CODA) celebrates Mother, Father Deaf Day on the last Sunday in April. This year, it was observed on April 26th. This was CODA's third annual celebration of its heritage.* Members and others whose parents are deaf were encouraged to celebrate this day by visiting or calling their parents, attending deaf clubs, religious services, or contributing to social-service agencies that serve the Deaf.

CODA International has a scholarship fund for young people whose parents are Deaf and who demonstrate academic excellence.

➳ For additional information on CODA and its scholarship programs,, contact **Trudy Schafer**, 28 Tremont Street, Brighton, MA 02135; ☎(617) 789 3862 (TTY/Voice; use relay to leave a message); ❖Trudy_Schafer@harvard.edu. Or contact: Children of Deaf Adults International, Inc., P.O. Box 30715, Santa Barbara, CA 93130-0715. Visit the CODA International homepage at ✱http://www.gallaudet.edu/~rgpricke/coda/

*See "Mother, Father Deaf Day: 2nd year," May 1997 "News Briefs," pp. 20-21.

☞ **Just what we need—a good chuckle!** The Penfield Players are presenting ***Virtue Triumphant, or, Her Honour in Peril***, an old-fashioned comedy melodrama by Pat Norris, on May 1-2, 8-9, and 14-15-16, at the Genesee Conservation League, 1570 Old Penfield Road, Penfield, New York (a suburb of Rochester). Wheelchair accessible. Curtain at 8:00 p.m. The May 1 performance was sign-interpreted by Brian Ambrose & Associates.

Penfield Players is a nonprofit community-theater group sponsored by the Penfield Recreation Department. This event was funded in part by a grant from the Rochester Area Community Foundation and Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester.

➳ Ticket information and reservations: Penfield Recreation Office ☎(716) 377-8655 (Voice).

☞ **News from Toronto: Deaf Canada Today**, a new newspaper based in Toronto, is being launched. Its goal is to become a national newspaper for the deaf in Canada, similar to what **DeafNation** has done for the United States. The focus, of course, will be Canadian first, international second. Editor **Michael Elmslie** says, "Those of you who have read Canadian newspapers know how balanced our newspapers tend to be."

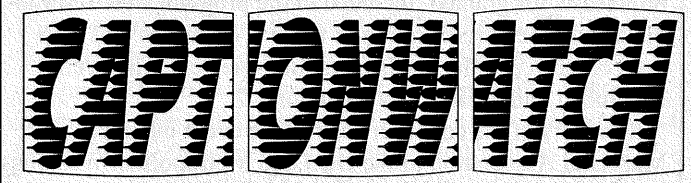
Contributions (writing, art, photography), news (community events, conferences, sports, club calendars, technology), and information of interest to the general deaf public, are being solicited for publication.

☞ **Plenty to choose from:** The American Library Association (ALA) has invited children to submit their favorite Websites to be posted on the ALA Website. Names of 100 children will be selected to receive software provided by Microsoft for their families and their library. Entries were being accepted through April 30 at ✱www.ala.org/kidspick/.

Hint!—Children, deaf and hearing, may submit their favorite Website that has special interest to the deaf community.

By the way, April is School Library Media Month. National Library Week (April 19-25) recently celebrated its 40th anniversary.—Alice L. Hagemeyer

➤ = Taken or adapted from NJ-L News.
➢ = Taken or adapted from **NVRC Digest**.



HOLD THE LINE!

The National Association of the Deaf has strongly urged the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee to maintain current levels of funding by the Department of Education for captioning of television programming. Responding to Congressional attempts to limit funds that would enable deaf and hard-of-hearing citizens to watch the full range of television programming, NAD members across the country sent letters, E-mails, and faxes letting Congress know the importance of having full access to television. "This is a civil-rights matter," said Executive Director **Nancy J. Bloch**. "Why shouldn't we enjoy the same options and choices that the senators have?"

NAD Headquarters issued an Action Alert to have its members, affiliates, and supporters communicate with their representatives the value of captioning access and choice in television programming in their lives.

The NAD also communicated its disappointment that "on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the historical Deaf President

Now (DPN) movement, certain individuals are attempting to roll back those accomplishments in an effort to segregate deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals from the general public."

Bloch asked, "Where are the civil rights of deaf and hard-of-hearing Americans to witness, enjoy, judge, appreciate, and learn through television in America?" The NAD message is and always will be that captioning is not just desirable or proper, it is essential.

HONORING SOME GOOD GUYS

On April 15, the Television for All (TVFA) Coalition held a Fifth Anniversary Reception at Gallaudet University Kellogg Conference Center to recognize the exemplary° work of selected TV stations in the Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore area.

The TVFA coalition is composed mainly of local non-profit organizations. Since its inception, TVFA has advocated for full access to real-time captioning of local TV news and special programming, and accessible emergency broadcasts.

To mark TVFA's 5th anniversary and celebrate the progress we've made, representatives from local deaf and hard-of-hearing community organizations and businesses were invited to the reception. It was planned by members of the original TVFA coalition to show appreciation to those TV stations who chose to provide equal access to *local* news through "real-time" captioning. This technology has enabled deaf and hard-of-hearing people to learn of the latest happenings *simultaneously* with those who take such news and emergency broadcasts for granted. Included in the program were testimonials and special recognition of those TV stations that have been receptive to the needs of caption-viewers. The event concluded with a High Tea reception.

Members of the coalition hosting the event included Maryland Association of the Deaf and Metropolitan Washington Deaf Community's "Roundtable on Deaf Issues," representing over 20 local nonprofit organizations. Others included: Potomac Chapter of Association of Late-Deafened Adults, NovaWest Chapter of SHHH, Gallaudet University, and two national organizations with headquarters in this area—NAD and TDI. Helping to sponsor the event were a number of businesses owned by deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

➤➤ For more information on upcoming TVFA events, contact **Adele Shuart**, TVFA event coordinator, ❖AKShuart@juno.com.

exemplary: outstanding.

WHOLLY PYTHON!

The Caption Center's been associated with several "firsts" over the years— first accessible program, first live local-news captioning, first dual-language captioned program. And now . . . ***Monty Python's Flying Circus*** is being captioned for the first time, thanks to the U.S. Department of Education's syndicated-programming grant and the American Program Service (the series' distributor).

Often imitated, never surpassed: The zany Python crew returns to public TV with their original brand of comedy. Left to right: Eric Idle, Graham Chapman, Michael Palin, John Ckeese, Terry Jones, and Terry Gilliam. (APS Syndication)

Now deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers will finally be able to enjoy the series, which has a permanent spot on the short list of the funniest series in TV history. ***Monty Python's Flying Circus*** began its rebroadcast on public-TV stations in March. (Viewers should check local listings for dates and times.)

Monty Python's Flying Circus introduced a unique new brand of humor to television audiences all over the world when it debuted in the early '70s. The series of half-hour episodes is made up of short sketches, songs, animation, physical comedy, and other antics that are so hilariously bizarre that they are difficult to describe. The six British cast members, **Graham Chapman**, **John Cleese**, **Terry Gilliam**, **Eric Idle**, **Terry Jones**, and **Michael Palin,** collaborated to create a full range of characters including a bicycle-repair man, "silly walk" competitors, a pet-store owner selling dead parrots, and an array of British housewives. Fans everywhere have memorized the lyrics to "The Lumberjack Song" ("I'm a lumberjack and I'm okay . . .") and can recite all of the lines in the "Crunchy Frog" sketch.

The surviving members of the group (Graham Chapman has since died) requested the dialogue not be edited for speed (and it does move fast!) and signed off on The Caption Center's involvement in captioning this landmark series. Said Caption Center co-director **Tom Apone**: "We're particularly excited about captioning ***Monty Python's Flying Circus***. Our staff, many of whom are devoted Python fans, had a great time captioning the series, and we're all proud to have a part in bringing the series to a whole new audience."

Background: APS, located in Boston, is a major source of programming for America's public-television stations. Known for identifying innovative programs and developing creative distribution techniques, APS provides stations with program

choices that enable them to strengthen and customize their schedules. It also now serves as an essential distribution and funding option for producers.

ARMCHAIR UMPIRES, REJOICE!

Major League Baseball is airing on FOX Sports Net and FX with captions by VITAC. Each Thursday night throughout the season, FOX Sports Net-owned and affiliated regional networks are televising one of two national "Baseball Thursday" games featuring top contenders, and FX is airing a Saturday-night game-of-the-week package for 26 weeks. VITAC, which provided captions for last year's World Series and this year's Super Bowl, captions approximately 50 hours of sports programming per week (Thursdays through Sundays) along with more than 230 hours per week of other news and entertainment programs.

"We are pleased to make our baseball coverage accessible to the important caption-viewing audience," said **Arthur Smith**, Executive Vice President of Programming and Production for FOX Sports Net. "We chose VITAC as our captioning company because of their national reputation for providing quality, verbatim captions. We're proud to offer our FX and FOX Sports Net audience high-quality captions from VITAC which will enhance the baseball experience for so many caption viewers."

Sports captioning is especially popular in noisy public places such as bars, restaurants, gyms, and airports. It enables viewers to follow a program despite the surrounding noise.

"Caption viewers can now join the legions of fans who enjoy sitting back and watching a baseball game on a hot summer night," said **Joseph R. Karlovits**, President of VITAC. "We are delighted by FOX's commitment to this project."

VITAC is also providing captions for *NFL Europe League*, *Formula One auto racing*, and ***Goin' Deep***, FOX Sports Net's weekly sports-magazine show. VITAC is captioning 10 games from FOX Sports Net of the *NFL Europe League* game-of-the-week telecast package. The exciting world of *Formula One* international auto racing can be seen throughout the season as FOX Sports Net offers coverage of 17 events from the World Championship circuit. ***Goin' Deep***. a one-hour show that brings viewers more comprehensive coverage of top sports headlines through investigative reports, one-on-one interviews and timeless retrospectives, can be seen every Sunday evening at 9 p.m. local time.

"SOMETHING VALUABLE":

MATLIN IS VITAC'S NEW SPOKESWOMAN

On March 19, VITAC announced that **Marlee Matlin** would be serving as its spokeswoman. This emphasizes her continued advocacy for equal access to all media. She said, "In the midst of all the glamour and excitement, it's important not to forget the audience or the powerful impact the entertainment industry has on so many lives, which is why captioning is so vital to the production process." (She was previously celebrity spokeswoman for the National Captioning Institute.)

"VITAC is focused on quality, which is why we are honored to have someone of Marlee Matlin's caliber, drive, achievement, spirit, and integrity as our spokesperson," says Joe Karlovits. "We want to continue to educate the public and the industry about the benefits of captioning, both socially and economically." VITAC provides captions for many of the nation's highest-rated programs and shows, including ***The Today Show***, ***Entertainment Tonight***, ***The Rosie O'Donnell Show***, ***CNN Headline News***, ***The Tonight Show with Jay Leno***, ***ABC World News Tonight***, ***Access Hollywood***, and the Super Bowl.

It has been 10 years since Matlin, co-starring in ***Children of a Lesser God***, became the youngest woman ever to win an Academy Award for Best Actress. On Monday, March 23, she made her most recent appearance on the Oscar telecast. In April, she will had her extraordinary life chronicled in ***E!***, Entertainment Television's new celebrity-biography scenes. She recently completed the thriller ***Two Shades of Blue*** with **Eric Roberts** and **Gary Busey**, and began filming ***In Self Defense*** in April. Her production company, Solo One Productions, is currently developing and producing ***90 Days at Hollyridge*** for Lifetime Television in conjunction with ABC Productions.

Matlin said, "Captioning proves that the entertainment industry wants their products to touch everyone. It's important that film libraries be captioned as well, since they help to document our cultural history. Because of quality captioning companies like VITAC, more television, video, and film titles are accessible than ever before. As a young actress growing up in Chicago, I loved ***The Wizard of Oz***, but could not fully enjoy the film until a few years ago when it was finally captioned. Entertainment companies and cable networks are starting to become aware that they honor themselves, their product, their audience, and the industry when they caption."

In honor of her association with VITAC, the company will make a donation in Matlin's name establishing a new and vital fund. The fund will honor the entertainment industry and recognize the importance of captioned programming. Matlin wants the fund to become "something valuable, lasting, and far-reaching; emphasizing my commitment to the entertainment industry and to access for everyone."

"A VIRTUAL PIPELINE"

REVOLUTIONIZING CAPTION DELIVERY

On April 6, Group W Network Services in Stamford, Connecticut, and VITAC in Pittsburgh, announced a new

service that promises to revolutionize the caption process for programmers worldwide. The new service, Global Captions™, is being demonstrated during this year's National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) convention in suite 571 at the Las Vegas Hilton.

GWNS, a global technical-service provider, is recognized for developing innovative technical services to support the television industry. Now, in association with VITAC, GWNS introduces its latest offering—the most efficient caption management and distribution service available.

In providing the Global Captions management and distribution system, GWNS is offering a turnkey solution that digitizes the video and sends it over the Internet to VITAC. VITAC prepares the captions and transmits the caption-data file back over the Internet to the client. At this point, the client can review the video with the captions and play the captions out of the workstation through an encoder, either to air or onto tape.

Barry Fox, GWNS' Vice President and General Manager, Entertainment, said, "Global Captions offers producers, cable networks, broadcast networks, distributors, studios, and video libraries a virtual pipeline between their location and their caption company. It provides a way for them to monitor the status of a project at every step of the process. By working with VITAC, a leader in captioning, we are offering a service that delivers quality, convenience, and efficiency."

"Global Captions makes use of the latest technology and enables us to offer clients unique, value-added service," said Joe Karlovits. "We are pleased to be collaborating with GWNS, a company widely recognized in the industry."

With the FCC's August 1997 ruling mandating that cable networks caption their programming and with many cable networks accessible globally, the market for captioning programming is growing rapidly. Global Captions provides an effective way to employ captions and enjoy the expanded market.

Background: Group W Network Services handles program origination, production, and international satellite distribution for broadcast, cable, and corporate clients. A service of CBS Corporation, it is one of the largest distributors of video programming in the United States. From its multi-dish satellite earth station in Stamford, GWNS transmits nearly 6,000 hours of television programming each week for broadcast networks: ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox and NHK (Japan Broadcasting Company); for cable networks: A&E, CBS Eye On People, Discovery Channel, The History Channel, The Learning Channel, Outdoor Life, Speedvision, and Viewer's Choice; for special-events networks: NFL Sunday Ticket™ and Wisconsin Sports Network; and for corporations: General Electric, IBM, Carrier, and others. GWNS also provides services to various New York-area television stations and international programmers and provides full studio production, post-production, and graphics operations to a wide range of clients. Domestic operations include GWNS in Minneapolis, a full-service satellite-transmission and distribution facility. Internationally, GWNS serves clients throughout the Asia-Pacific region from the all-digital Asia Broadcast Centre in Singapore.

On the benefits of captioning: Captioning can benefit in excess of 100 million people in this country alone. Users include the 28 million people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, 35 million elementary school children honing reading skills, 45 million people learning English as a second language, including the expanding Asian and Hispanic markets, and 27 million adults learning to read. With the Television Decoder Circuitry Act of 1990 mandating that all televisions 13 inches or larger sold in America have a built-in decoder, the access, use, and cross-benefits of captioning have proliferated.° Today, more than 60 million television sets have captioning capabilities, with 100% saturation expected in less than two years. It's a booming market.

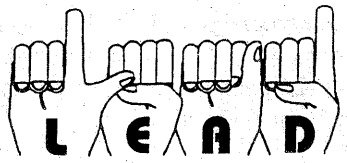
proliferated: (*verb*) rapidly increased; multiplied.

READING BETWEEN THE LINES

Line 21 is a new newsletter published by Caption Services of Kansas (based in Lawrence). As the first issue notes: "Since the inception of our company in April, 1995, we have spent much time and energy educating people about captioning—what it is, its applications, its value for producers and consumers, its role in marketing, and how we can help clients meet their captioning needs. We are frequently asked for current information about such things as demographics, consumer preferences, hearing loss, advocacy, legislation, and other subjects directly and indirectly related to captionng." **Line 21** will address "all aspects of the captioning industry" answer questions from readers, and keep them informed if changes and new developments.

The first issue of **Line 21** asks readers how they feel about the controversy surrounding ***The Jerry Springer Show*** and the demand by Senators Coats and Lieberman that Education Secretary Riley review the Department of Education's standards for funding captioning and revoke the grant to the service provider captioning that particular program. Should only educational captioning get DOE funding? What about programming that is "without educational value"? Contact **Line 21** at ☎(785) 842-9994 (TTY/Voice/FAX); ❖captionservks@compuserve.com (E-mail).

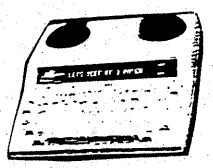
We Need Your Help!

Midwest  **Institute**

Leadership through Education & Advocacy for the Deaf

The Midwest L.E.A.D. Institute (Leadership through Education and Advocacy for the Deaf) is a non-profit corporation located in Columbia, Missouri. The goal of Midwest L.E.A.D. Institute is to provide services to deaf, hard of hearing and late deafened adults where there are service gaps or services being offered that are not culturally and linguistically appropriate.

My name is Stephanie Logan and I am the Executive Director of the Midwest L.E.A.D. Institute. I became deaf six years ago to spinal meningitis. I never would have imagined I would be developing programs and services for deaf and hard of hearing individuals. However, I was overwhelmed by the lack of services available when I became deaf and realized how fortunate I was as a hearing person and the opportunities I took for granted. The following are three major programs that I want to expand at the Midwest L.E.A.D. Institute but ***I need your help.***



National Crisis Line for the Deaf:

We are currently working to expand Deafline Missouri to become the National Crisis Line for the Deaf. Deafline Missouri is a 24-hour crisis hotline. It provides free and confidential help through the TTY for the deaf and hard of hearing community throughout Missouri. Deafline Missouri is also for any shelter, agency, or individual who needs help or information when working with deaf or hard of hearing individuals. Parents, families, and friends of deaf and hard of hearing persons can also call Deafline Missouri to receive support and referrals. In order to provide the nation's first crisis line to serve and support deaf and hard of hearing people in crisis, Midwest L.E.A.D. Institute needs $25,000 to cover the cost of phone bills for 1998-1999.

The Deaf House:

There are approximately 2.8 million deaf and hard of hearing women and children who are victims of domestic violence each year but just getting through the front door of a shelter can be impossible (many have a doorbell with a speaker). Once inside a shelter, many times an interpreter is needed to facilitate the communication process. This can be extremely expensive if services are ongoing for a shelter whose budget is already limited. Midwest L.E.A.D. Institute already provides statewide services to a few of these women and children. $320,000 is needed to purchase the house and employ the staff needed to give these women and children a chance to be safe in an environment where they are comfortable and communication is a priority. Midwest L.E.A.D. Institute currently works with approximately 100 deaf and hard of hearing women each year who are victims of domestic violence.

Bicultural-Bilingual Learning Academy:

This facility will be designed to provide a culturally and linguistically appropriate, educational preschool environment for both deaf and hard of hearing children as well as hearing children of deaf parents. This innovative, groundbreaking school will cost approximately $375,000.

This is not a gimmick! If you have any questions at all, please feel free to call, write, or email me anytime. I would be happy to personally answer any questions you might have or send you information on our organization.

Stephanie Logan; 409 Vandiver Drive, Building 4, Suite 100; Columbia, Missouri 65202
(573) 817-2400 slogan@services.computerland.net

Yes, I want to help the Midwest L.E.A.D. Institute accomplish your goals. Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of: ___ $10,000 ___ $5,000 ___ $1,000 ___ $500 ___$100 ___ other

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

CLASSIFIED

Mill Neck Services Job Development Program

Are you Deaf or Hard of Hearing? Are you looking for work? Mill Neck Service's Job Development Program can help you obtain employment. Please contact our agency at ☎(516) 922-3334 (TTY) or ☎(516) 922-3818 (Voice).

Sign Language Interpreters

Need a Sign Language Interpreter for special events? Contact Mill Neck Services Interpreter Referral at ☎(516) 922-3334 (TTY) or ☎(516) 922-3818 (Voice).

Looking for back issues?

Want to order a complete set of **DEAF LIFE**? A VERY limited number of complete sets (July 1988-June 1997) are available at $1500.00 each postpaid.

Visit our Website (www.deaflife.com) to see a complete listing of all past issues, with covers in full color, description of contents, availability, price, and ordering information.

Only 11 complete sets are left. So contact us now if you're interested in reserving one.

Rates: 30 words or less, $20.00. 25¢ per additional word. All classifieds **must** be prepaid; please enclose check or money order with submission. All information must be **typed** or **printed**. Illegible submissions or those without spaces between words will not be accepted. Deadline for submission is 1st of the month for the following month. We reserve the right to edit or reject any submission.

YES, WE CAN!

***DEAF LIFE* now accepts the above credit cards. You can charge your subscription order to your card!**

See order form on page 2.

MAGNET SCHOOL OF THE DEAF JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Positions are now available at a bilingual charter school, the Magnet School of the Deaf (MSD), in metro Denver, Colorado.

POSITIONS:

- Academic Coordinator for all levels (preschool-grade 4)
- Teacher
- Educational Assistant

SALARY: Commensurate with training and experience.

APPLICATIONS: Until positions are filled.

Please submit:

1. Cover letter with a short written statement of your educational philosophy.
2. Résumé
3. The names of three individuals able to evaluate your knowledge, teaching skills, and interpersonal skills.
4. A videotape illustrating your sign proficiency. Videotapes of teaching skills are also welcome.

Submit applications by way of mail to:

Cliff Moers
Magnet School of the Deaf
8605 W. 23rd Ave.
Lakewood, CO 80215

For more information, such as detailed job descriptions, contact Cliff Moers at ☎(303) 492-4124 (TTY) or ❖moers@stripe.colorado.edu.

See the Magnet School of the Deaf website at:
✱http://www.colorado.edu/CDSS/MSD